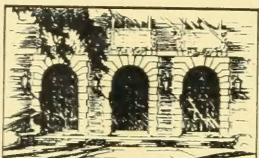


# Historic Rock Island County







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Historic Rock Island County; history of the settlement of Rock Island County from the earliest known period to the present time ... embracing references of importance, and including a biography of Rock Island County's well-known citizens. Rock Island, Ill. Kramer & Co., 1908.

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Biographical history of Rock Island County's early settlers and leading business men.

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# HISTORIC ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

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History of the Settlement of Rock Island County From the  
Earliest Known Period to the Present Time

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## ILLUSTRATED

Embracing References of Importance, and Including a Biography of  
Rock Island County's Well-Known Citizens

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ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS  
KRAMER & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS AND ENGRAVERS  
1908





## FOREWORD

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THE work undertaken by the publishers of HISTORIC ROCK ISLAND COUNTY is manifestly a work in the interest of posterity and the historian of the future. Much that has permanent value in history-making for this section of the Mississippi Valley is here presented in concise form and is written within the memory of people who largely contributed to its social, political and industrial development. It needs no prophetic vision to forecast the future of this community as one of greater prosperity, greater achievement and greater potentiality, and the mighty river flowing past our door—destined, it is believed, to bear upon its bosom the commerce of the inland seas—is vocal with the message it carries to the southland on its way to join the waters of the Gulf. Amid scenes of quiet, beauty in prairie groves, on the undulating slopes of wooded hillsides, and within the shadow of busy and growing cities, “the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep,” but their work lives after them, and their years of toil and hardship, not unmixed with the dangers of frontier life, are glorified in the annals of HISTORIC ROCK ISLAND COUNTY. Carlyle tells us that the study of biography is the most universally pleasant and profitable of all studies. The present volume, therefore, is rich in biographical information brought down to date, and the publishers confidently believe that the history of men and women, no less than the record of successful business enterprises makes for value and perpetuity in a work of this kind. In this connection, also, they wish to express their gratitude to all who have in any way aided in its preparation. HISTORIC ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, as its name implies, is an integral part of the story of a great state; and if, when the larger history of Illinois shall be written, the historian finds within these pages aught that adds lustre to the glory of the commonwealth, then indeed will the realization of the hope that prompted their publication be complete.

THE PUBLISHERS.



## THE SACS AND FOXES

Our County in the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War  
Early Settlers and Other Historic Events

WILLIAM A. MEESE

THE first people who inhabited the country, now Rock Island County, were redmen. What tribes first occupied this ground is not known, but in the first part of the seventeenth century, it was the hunting grounds of the once powerful tribes known as the *Illini*, or *Illinois*, who were a confederation of several tribes, the Tamaraos, Michigamies, Kaskaskias, Cahokias, and Peorias, and with whom were also classed the Mascoutins, sometimes called the Sixth Tribe. These tribes all were of the great Algonquin nation. Marquette in his journal speaks of meeting the Illini in 1673, when he stopped at the Des Moines River, and afterwards when, on his return, he came by way of the Illinois River from its mouth to Lake Michigan. The scene of the Illinois' main residence was, however, in the central and southern parts of the state.

### THE SAC AND FOX INDIANS.

About 1722 northwestern Illinois became the home and the hunting ground of the Sacs and Foxes. The word "Ou-Sakis" or "Sau-Kee," now written Sac and Sauk, is derived from the compound word "A-Sau-we-Kee" signifying yellow earth, and "Mus-qua-Kee," the original name of the Foxes, means red earth. The early French named this tribe, Renards and the Americans called them Foxes. These tribes originally lived on the St. Lawrence River near Quebec and Montreal. The Foxes were the first to migrate west. They settled along the river that bears their

name and which empties into Green Bay. The Sacs after a long and bloody war with the Iroquois were driven from the St. Lawrence River westward. They were next engaged in war with the Wyandottes, and again were they compelled to hurry towards the setting sun, until at length they reached Green Bay on Lake Michigan, near where the Foxes had made their habitation. Here it seems both tribes were frequently attacked by other tribes of Indians, until at last they united, forming an offensive and defensive union, each however, retaining its tribal name. Through intermarriage and long residence they became substantially one people, an alliance lasting to this day. Both the Sacs and Foxes belong to the Algonquin family.

At what time these two tribes came to Green Bay is not known. Marquette's map of 1673 locates the Foxes on the Fox River between the present Green Bay and Lake Winnebago. Father Claude Allouez, when he established the mission of St. Francis Xavier in 1669, found them located near, and in 1672 he commenced preaching the gospel to them. Early in the eighteenth century they were driven from Green Bay and the Fox River by the Menominees, who were aided by the Ottawas, Chippewas and the French.

The Sacs and Foxes made depredations on the French traders and exacted tribute from them, whereon the French commandant of the post at Green Bay took a party of his men



in covered boats, and while distracting the attention of the Indians, opened fire on them from the water, at the same time that his Menominee allies attacked their village from the banks in the rear. Those who survived the slaughter removed to the Mississippi River. On arriving there they found that country inhabited by the Sauteaux, a branch of the Chippewa tribe. Upon these they commenced war, finally driving them out of the country, which they then took possession of and occupied. This was about 1722.

These tribes next waged war upon the Mascoutins and in a battle opposite the mouth of the Iowa River defeated and almost exterminated this tribe. They then formed an alliance with the Pottawattomies, Menominees and Winnebagoes, and together attacked the Illinois and gradually drove these people further southward.

The Sacs and Foxes have warred with the Sioux, the Pawnees, Osages and other Indians, and their record shows that they ranked among the fiercest and most warlike tribes. Drake said of them: "The Sacs and Foxes are a truly courageous people, shrewd, politic and enterprising, with not more of ferocity and treachery of character than is common among the tribes by whom they were surrounded."

#### SAC AND FOX TREATIES.

The first recognition by our government of the Sacs and Foxes was in the treaty made at Ft. Harmar, January 9, 1789, which guaranteed: "The individuals of said nations shall be at liberty to hunt within the territory ceded to the United States, without hindrance or molestation, so long as they demean themselves peaceably and offer no injury or annoyance to any of the subjects or citizens of the said United States."

In 1804 William Henry Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory, and afterwards President of the United States, was instructed by President Jefferson to institute negotiations

with the Sacs and Foxes to purchase their lands. At this time, Black Hawk had risen to the position of war chief of the Sac tribe. Four chiefs or headmen of the Sacs and two chiefs of the Foxes went to St. Louis, and November 3, 1804, made a treaty with Governor Harrison. By this treaty the Indians ceded all their lands, comprising the eastern third of the present State of Missouri and the territory lying between the Wisconsin River on the north, the Fox River of Illinois on the east, the Illinois on the southeast, and the Mississippi on the west, in all *fifty million acres*. For this grant the United States guaranteed to the Indians "friendship and protection," paid them \$2,234.50 in goods, and guaranteed them goods each year thereafter to the amount of \$1,000, \$600 of which was to be paid to the Sacs and \$400 to the Foxes. By this treaty it was provided in Article 7:

"As long as the lands which are now ceded to the United States remain their property, the Indians belonging to the said tribes shall enjoy the privilege of living and hunting upon them." This article in the treaty caused much trouble between the government and the Sacs and Foxes, and was the main cause of the Black Hawk War. Black Hawk was not present at its making, and always denied the right of the headmen of the Sac tribe to sign such a treaty for his people.

In the spring of 1804 a white person (a man or boy) was killed in Cuivre settlement by a Sauk (Sac) Indian. A party of United States troops was sent from St. Louis to the Rock River village to demand the murderer. The Sacs surrendered and delivered him to the soldiers and he was conveyed to St. Louis and turned over to the civil authorities. During the latter part of October, 1804, Quash-quame, one of the Sac chiefs, together with others of his tribe and some of the Foxes, went to St. Louis to try and secure the release of the Sac murderer who was a relative of Quash-quame. It is an Indian custom and

usage that if one Indian kills another, the matter is generally compromised with the murdered man's relatives for a property consideration, as Black Hawk said: "The only means with us for saving a person who killed another was by paying for the person killed, thus covering the blood and satisfying the relatives of the murdered man," and the Sacs believed that by the giving of ponies and peltries to the whites they could secure the Indian's release.

Thomas Forsyth, for many years an Indian trader, and from 1816 until 1830 the agent of the Sacs and Foxes, in a manuscript written in 1832 says of this matter: "Quash-quame, a Sauk chief, who was the headman of this party, has repeatedly said, 'Mr. Pierre Chouteau, Sen., came several times to my camp, offering that if I would sell the lands on the east side of the Mississippi River, Governor Harrison would liberate my relation (meaning the Sauk Indian then in prison as above related), to which I at last agreed, and sold the lands from the mouth of the Illinois River up the Mississippi River as high as the mouth of Rocky River (now Rock River), and east to the ridge that divides the waters of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and I never sold any more lands.' Quash-quame also said to Governor Edwards, Governor Clark and Mr. Auguste Chouteau, commissioners appointed to treat with the Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawatomies of Illinois River, in the summer of 1816, for lands on the west side of Illinois River, 'You white men may put on paper what you please, but again I tell you, I never sold my lands higher up the Mississippi than the mouth of Rock River.'"

It is claimed that the Indians were drunk most of the time they were in St. Louis, a thing not unlikely. Forsyth said the Indians always believed the annuities they received, were presents, and when he in 1818 informed them it was a part of the purchase price of their lands, "they were astonished, and refused to accept of the goods, denying that

they ever sold the lands as stated by me, their agent. The Black Hawk in particular, who was present at the time, made a great noise about this land, and would never receive any part of the annuities from that time forward."

When it became known that certain chiefs and headmen had without authority sold their lands, Quash-quame and his companions were degraded from their ranks, Tiamia, the son-in-law of Quash-quame, being elected to his father-in-law's place.

In 1815 a part of the Sacs and Foxes had migrated to the Missouri River, and September 13, 1815, these Indians sent representatives to the Portage des Sioux, where each tribe made a separate treaty with the government, agreeing to ratify the treaty of November 3, 1804, and to remain separate from, and render no assistance to, the Sacs and Foxes then living on Rock River.

On the 13th day of May, 1816, another treaty was entered into at St. Louis. This treaty was between the "Sacs of Rock River" and the government. It reaffirmed the treaty of 1804 and all other contracts heretofore made between the parties. To this treaty is attached the mark of Ma-Ka-tai-me-She-Kia-Kiak, or "Black Sparrow Hawk," as Black Hawk was also called. Yet Black Hawk said in 1832: "*Here, for the first time, I touched the goose quill to the treaty not knowing, however, that by the act I consented to give away my village. Had they explained to me I should have opposed it and never would have signed their treaty as my recent conduct will clearly prove.*"

In the treaty of 1804 the government had agreed, in order to put a stop to the abuses and impositions practiced upon the Indians by private traders, to establish a trading house or factory where these Indians could be supplied with goods cheaper and better than from private traders. This the government concluded it was best not to continue, and a new treaty was made by which the United States paid the Indians \$1,000 to be relieved

from this obligation. Black Hawk signed this treaty. Another treaty was made August 1, 1824, which reaffirmed and recognized all former treaties. Each treaty left the Sacs and Foxes with less land and fewer rights.

For years there had existed a bitter feeling between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes, and August 19, 1825, William Clark and Lewis Case on behalf of the government assembled these tribes, together with the Chippewas, Menominees, Winnebagoes, Iowas, Ottawas and Pottawatomies at Prairie du Chien, and entered into a treaty whose object was to end the wars between these nations. In this treaty it was agreed that the United States should run a boundary line between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes. It seems that this treaty proved unsatisfactory to the Indians, for July 30, 1830, another treaty was entered into at Prairie du Chien in which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a tract of land twenty miles in width lying south of the line established by the treaty of August 19, 1825. The Sioux also ceded a strip twenty miles wide along the north line of said boundary. This forty mile strip was neutral territory, open to all for hunting and fishing, and was along the Iowa River.

#### SAC AND FOX CUSTOMS.

The Sacs and Foxes had many peculiar customs, one being that each male child was marked at birth with either white or black color, the Indian mother alternating the colors so that the nation was evenly divided between black and white. This distinction was kept alive during life, the object being to create rivalry and a spirit of emulation between the members of the tribe. Thus black was the competitor of white in their games and social customs, and each side tried to outdo the other, and in war to take more scalps. Black Hawk belonged to the "Black" party and Keokuk to the "White" party.

Marriage among the Sacs and Foxes required only the consent of the parties and

their parents. The husband could at any time divorce his wife or add another if he deemed best, and although the marriage ties were not strong, the ties of consanguinity were rigidly preserved. Hereditary rights were traced through the female line. This was accomplished by means of the Totem, an institution or emblem which served as a distinction for the different clans or families. The family surname was represented by some bird or animal, such as Eagle, Hawk, Heron, Deer, Bear, etc. Each Indian was proud of his Totem—in fact it represented a fraternity or secret society. As the different members of a clan were connected by ties of kindred, they were prohibited from intermarriage. A Bear might not marry a Bear, but could marry an Eagle, Hawk, or member of any other clan. This Totem system furnished the means of tracing family lineage through all their years of wandering and preserved their hereditary rights.

The Sacs and Foxes had from the early part of the eighteenth century occupied the banks of the Mississippi between the mouth of the Missouri and the Wisconsin, the Sacs occupying the eastern side of the river, and the Foxes its western banks.

#### THE HOMES OF THE SACS.

The Sacs' house or wigwam was made by setting posts in the ground and siding it with bark. On top of the posts small poles were laid for rafters upon which strips of bark were laid. These wigwams were about eighteen feet wide and from twenty to sixty feet long. West of the Rock River village the Indians cultivated about one thousand acres, raising corn, beans, squashes and melons. The Sacs and Foxes planted their corn in the same hill year after year. They would dig up the hill each year and plant the corn in the middle, cultivating it with a primitive hoe and hoeing it three or four times during a season. These corn hills were quite large, many of them being still visible a few years ago. The farming



was done principally by the women assisted by the old men and children. From the years 1780 to about 1820, the traders at Prairie du Chien came to the Sac village for all the corn they used. After the crops were harvested, the Sacs would prepare to leave for their winter hunt. Before going they would dig a round hole in the ground about eighteen inches in diameter. Carefully removing the sod and digging five or six feet they would enlarge it so that it would hold many bushels. These holes they would line with bark and dry grass and then fill up with their grains and vegetables. When full they would replace the sod and remove all traces of earth, often building a fire over it so that no enemy could find the place and steal the supply they had laid up for the next spring and summer. When this was done the Sacs and Foxes would go off into Iowa and Missouri where they would hunt. In the winter their houses were made by sticking poles in the ground and bending them over so as to form a half circle about twelve feet in diameter. These were covered with rugs woven of grass and with hides.

#### THE ROCK RIVER VILLAGE.

The chief Sac village was located on the north bank of Rock River about two miles from its mouth. It was built about 1730, west of where the Rock Island and Peoria Railway crosses the river, and it extended down along the bank in a straggling form. It was one of the largest Indian towns on the continent, the oldest and longest inhabited, and had a population often as high as three thousand. It was the summer home of the Sacs. Here was located the tribal burying ground, a spot more revered by an Indian than anything else on earth. Here reposed the bones of a century of the Sac warriors, their wives and children, and here each Sac came once each year to commune with his friends and family who had departed to the "happy hunting grounds." On these occasions all vegetation was removed from the

mound and the mourner addressed words of endearment to the dead, inquiring how they fared in the land of spirits, and placed food upon the graves. The Sacs were particular in their demonstrations of grief. They darkened their faces with charcoal, fasted and abstained from the use of vermilion and ornaments of dress.

Black Hawk said: "With us it is a custom to visit the graves of our friends and keep them in repair for many years. The mother will go alone to weep over the grave of her child. After he has been successful in war, the brave, with pleasure, visits the grave of his father, and repaints the post that marks where he lies. There is no place like that where the bones of our forefathers lie to go to when in grief. Here, prostrate by the tombs of our forefathers, will the Great Spirit take pity on us."

#### NAME OF THE VILLAGE.

The old Indian town has by some been called "Saukenuk." How this name originated is not known. The first to use it was Armstrong in his "Sauks and the Black Hawk War," published in 1887. Catlin refers to it in 1837 as "Saug-e-nug," yet none of our pioneer settlers mention it except as the "Sac Village," or "Black Hawk's Village." Judge Spencer in his "Reminiscenses," in speaking of the year 1829, says: "We were here but a few days when two Indians came, the first we had seen. One of them commenced talking in a loud voice in the Indian language of which we could not understand a word. By pointing to the wigwam, saying, 'Saukie Wigeop,' then pointing to the ground saying, 'Saukie-Aukie,' and repeating this many times we understood he claimed the land and the wigwam belonged to the Indians." Caleb Atwater, who was the commissioner employed by the United States to negotiate with the Indians of the upper Mississippi for the purchase of their mineral lands in 1829, was unable to learn the name of the Sac town

whether because it had none or because the Indians did not care to name it, is not known.

Major Morrill Marston who was stationed at Ft. Armstrong from August 1819 to June 1821, in a letter dated November 1820, in speaking of the Sac village said they call it *Sen-i-se-po Ke-be-sau-Kee* (Rock River peninsula). When the Major spoke to one of the chiefs about removing his people west of the Mississippi, the Indian replied, that his people were not willing to leave *Ke-be-sau-Kee* because their chiefs and friends were buried there.

#### POPULATION OF THE SACS AND FOXES.

In 1805 Lieutenant Zebulon Pike on behalf of the United States government made an expedition from St. Louis to the sources of the Mississippi River. He says that the Sacs had three villages, one at the head of the Des Moines Rapids, the second on a prairie about two miles from the Mississippi at Oquawka, and the third on Rock River about three miles from its mouth. The Foxes or Reynolds also had three villages, one on the Illinois side above the Rock Island Rapids, one at Dubuque and one near Prairie du Chien. Pike estimated that the Sacs numbered 2,850 souls, of whom 1,400 were children, 750 women and 700 warriors. The Foxes numbered 1,750 of whom 400 were warriors, 850 children, 500 women. In 1825 the secretary of war estimated the entire number of Sacs and Foxes at 4,600, an increase of over one thousand in twenty years. In 1831, at the commencement of Indian hostilities preceding the Black Hawk War, there were twenty families of whom twelve were Sacs and eight were Foxes, and their total number is estimated to have been five thousand souls, this number including those living in Iowa and Missouri.

#### A REVOLUTIONARY BATTLE.

In the spring of 1780 Captain Hesse, a former British soldier, then Indian trader, assembled at the portage of the Fox and

Wisconsin Rivers, a body of Menominees, Winnebagoes and Sacs and Foxes, in all about six hundred and fifty Indians, and with fifty white traders came down the Wisconsin River in canoes and thence down the Mississippi River to St. Louis, and attacked that then Spanish post. The British and their Indian allies on May 26th, made their attack, but were repulsed by the inhabitants and the small Spanish garrison. They then crossed the Mississippi River and attacked the American post at Cahokia. Colonel John Montgomery was American commandant of the Illinois, and he having heard of the enemy's movements, was prepared. General George Rogers Clark had while at the Falls of the Ohio learned of the threatened British-Indian invasion, and hurried to the Illinois, arriving on the night of the 25th, and assisted in the defense. The British and Indians were repulsed although one American was killed.

General Clark now ordered Colonel Montgomery to pursue the enemy, and Montgomery at the head of an army of three hundred and fifty soldiers, mostly Virginians, including a company of Illinois French Militia and some Spanish, marched to where Peoria now is and destroyed the Indian village on the Illinois. He then took up his march across the prairies to the Sac village near the mouth of Rock River. It was in the first part of June, early accounts do not mention the day of the month, but it was during the season that the Sacs and Foxes were always at their village cultivating their fields of corn. Black Hawk does not mention this American visit, due probably to the fact that an Indian seldom if ever mentions defeat. Colonel Montgomery himself makes scant mention of his journey, save in a letter written in 1783 to the *Board of Commissioners for the Settlement of Western Accounts* in which he defends his actions while in the Illinois. He speaks of desiring a leave of absence and says, "It was then he (General George Rogers Clark) informed me of his resolution; and that the Public Interest would

not permit of my request being granted, that I must take command of the expedition to Rock River." He then says: "After giving me instructions, he (Clark) left Kohos (Cahokia) the 4th of June with a small escort for the mouth of the Ohio on his route to Kentucky. I immediately proceeded to the Business I was order'd and march'd three hundred and fifty men to the lake open on the Illinois River, and from thence to the Rock River, Destroying the Towns and Crops proposed. The Enemy not Dareing to fight me as they had so lately Been Disbanded and they could not raise a sufficient force"

James Aird, an early British trader, speaking of this matter in 1805, said that the Sac village was burnt, "by about three hundred Americans, although the Indians had assembled 700 warriors to give them battle." Aird from 1778 on was engaged in trade with the Sacs and Foxes made annual visits to their village and for weeks maintained on *Credit* (now Suburban) Island a trading post or station.

The French Militia who accompanied Montgomery undoubtedly expected to capture rich booty from the Indians and were greatly disappointed. In a lengthy declaration to *M. Mottin de la Balme, pensioner of the King of France and French Colonel, etc.*, the inhabitants of Cahokia complain grievously of the Virginians. They say in speaking of the Rock River Expedition: "Oh, Colonel Clark, affecting always to desire our public welfare and under pretext of avenging us, soon formed with us and conjointly with the Spaniards a party of more than three hundred men to go and attack in their own village the savages who had come to our homes to harass us, and after substituting Colonel Montgomery to command in his place, he soon left us.

"It is, then, well to explain to you, sir, that the Virginians, who never employed any principle of economy, have been the cause by their lack of management and bad conduct, of the non-success of the expedition and that our

glorious projects have failed through their fault; for the savages abandoned their nearest villages, where we have been, and we were forced to stop and not push on further, since we had almost no more provisions, powder and balls, which the Virginians had undertaken to furnish us."

Thus at the Sac village at the mouth of Rock River was fought a battle during the War of the Revolution. How long it lasted, were there any killed or wounded, or if British soldiers took part, our early records do not state, but in this farthest west of the Revolutionary engagements, American soldiers like their brothers in the east, triumphed.

#### BLACK HAWK AND KEOKUK.

At the commencement of the nineteenth century and up to the Black Hawk War, the principal and central figure of the redmen in the upper Mississippi Valley was the Sac chief, Black Hawk, who was born at the Indian village on Rock River in 1767. Black Hawk was of middling size and as Catlin says, "with a head that would excite the envy of a phrenologist; one of the finest that heaven ever let fall on the shoulders of an Indian." Another Sac chief who had risen from the ranks was Keokuk. His advancement was due to his raising a war party to defend his nation from an expected attack of the Americans during the War of 1812, but which attack never occurred. Although polygamy was practiced among the Sacs and Foxes, Black Hawk had but one wife while Keokuk had seven. Keokuk was also born at the Sac village on Rock River in 1783, and died in April, 1848, at the Sac and Fox Agency in Kansas.

Early in the nineteenth century there seems to have arisen a difference between the Sacs and Foxes. Lieutenant Pike, writing in 1805, says:

"But recently there appears to be a schism between the two nations, the latter (Foxes) not approving of the insolence and ill will



which has marked the conduct of the former (Sacs) towards the United States on many late occurrences." This disagreement continued to grow, and while some of the Foxes held with the Sacs, most of the Foxes were inclined to be well disposed to the Americans, as were some of the Sacs, and these friendly Indians arrayed themselves under Keokuk's standard while the war party held to Black Hawk. Black Hawk and Keokuk were thus rival chiefs. Keokuk had never done anything that entitled him to leadership. The Indian standard of character and honor made it the duty of an Indian to be foremost in the ranks of the war party. Keokuk had few victories to his credit, but he was diplomatic. In 1828 he moved with his following across the Mississippi and built a village on the Iowa.

Black Hawk, like Keokuk, was not an hereditary chief, but had risen to the position of chief of the war party through the native vigor of his character and his great success in war. Black Hawk had never suffered defeat. His band, which was much the larger, comprised the chivalry of the Sac and Fox nations. At the beginning of the War of 1812, he offered the services of his nation to the Americans, which from motives of humanity they declined. Yet the British were not loth to accept them, for directly after this we find that La Guthrie, an agent of Great Britain, was at the Rock River village to enlist the Sacs and Foxes on the British side and against the Americans, and we find them fighting us in the War of 1812. From this fact and from this time, Black Hawk's band was known as the "British Band." A study of Black Hawk's life discloses that he possessed those qualities which in a white man would raise him to power and position. Black Hawk was the great *Indian commoner*. Keokuk was noted as an Indian orator; Black Hawk as an Indian warrior.

#### THE CAUSE OF INDIAN WARS.

Every so called Indian war in this country originated in a desire on the part of the white

man to possess the home and the hunting grounds of his red brother. Discovery by the European nations was considered a right to extinguish the redman's title. England's policy then as now was to claim that all title to land was vested in the crown, that her subjects might occupy the soil, but could not alienate it except to her own people. England treated the Indians as she did her own subjects. When the United States at the close of the Revolutionary War succeeded to this country from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, the same principles regarding the title to the Indian lands were carried out, and while in every instance our government had secured title and extinguished Indian rights, by treaty or purchase, we must admit that the consideration was the most trivial, and too often acceptance on the part of the redman was influenced by the force of arms.

"Did the red man foresee his impending doom, his forced retreat towards the setting sun, the gradual breaking up of his power and the final extinction of his race?" Careful study of Indian history leads us to believe that among the Indians, as well as among the white men, there were those who saw the coming storm, "who saw the threatening cloud coming from the east, small at first, scarce a shadow, but gradually becoming more distinct and greater as it traveled westward, and, when it reached the summit of the Alleghanies, it assumed a darker hue; deep murmurs, as of thunder, were heard; it was impelled westward by strong winds and shot forth forked tongues of lightning." On the plains of Abraham, when French supremacy west of the Alleghanies was forever lost, and Pontiac stood before the British officer who was to proceed westward to secure the fruits of victory and said, "I stand in thy path," he realized the impending conflict, and his note of warning to the chiefs of his nation to "Drive the dogs who wear red clothing into the sea" was his last appeal to save his race. Fifty years later Tecumseh

fell a martyr to the Indian cause, and his efforts to stem the westward march of the white man failed. For three years after that Tuscaloosa strove in vain to save his nation, and in 1832 the Sacs and Foxes on Rock Island soil, under the leadership of their great chief, Black Hawk, made the last determined Indian defense of their homes and the resting place of their forefathers.

#### SACS AND FOXES OF TODAY.

After their removal to Iowa, they by treaties in 1836 and 1842 ceded all their lands up to the Missouri River, and in June, 1885, these people were distributed as follows: On Sac and Fox Reservation in Iowa (Tama County) about 380; on Pottawatomie and Great Nemaha Agency Reservation, near the northeast corner of Kansas, the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri about 187; on Sac and Fox Reservation in Indian Territory, 457, and Mohoko's band, wandering in the west, about 350—a total of 1,374. Almost all but the last named band are farmers and herders. The agent at Sac and Fox Agency, Iowa, writing in 1884, said: "For honesty and truthfulness our Indians stand above the average white man with the merchants with whom they deal." Yet in spite of all attempts to civilize them, the Sacs and Foxes still live in rude huts like their ancestors, cooking their food at a fire made on the ground, the smoke escaping from an opening in the roof; sleeping on bunks of boards arranged on the sides of their huts, wearing blankets, painting their faces, shaving and decorating their heads, as did their ancestors who lived at the old Rock River village. They lack thrift, industry and a spirit of progress. They still offer prayers and hold feasts before planting their crops, and another series of prayers and thanksgiving when their crops are gathered. Notwithstanding the efforts of Christian missionaries, holy or consecrated tobacco is still burned on certain occasions as incense, and as of yore they still

have "Me-sham," a something that profane eyes have never been allowed to see. The modern Sacs and Foxes, while quiet and peaceful, are averse to work and seem at their best visiting the neighboring towns, lounging about smoking, chatting and playing the white man's game—cards.

#### FIRST WHITE EXPLORERS.

Undoubtedly the first white men to cast their eyes upon Rock Island soil were Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette, when they and their five French canoemen, in June 1673, floated from the mouth of the Wisconsin River down the broad Mississippi. We do not know that they landed at any spot in the boundary of what is now Rock Island County, but as they came over the Rock Island rapids, gliding down the swift flowing water, they could not fail to notice the Island of Rock Island with its rocky shores and beautiful groves, for their canoes must needs take the channel on the north shore of the island. All early voyagers remarked upon this locality, and it was generally considered "the handsomest and most delightful spot of the same size on the whole globe."

We have no record of the first white man who stepped on Rock Island soil. We know that as early as 1690 Nicholas Perrot, French commandant of the west, built a post opposite to where Dubuque, Iowa, now is and that in 1695 Pierre Le Sueur built a fort on a large island in the Mississippi River between Lake Pepin and the mouth of the St. Croix, which Charlevoix says became "the centre of commerce for the western parts." Le Sueur discovered lead mines on both sides of the Mississippi River (at Dubuque and Galena), and Penicault, his reporter and companion, speaks of the rapids at Rock Island. We know that agents of Anthony Crozat at some time between the years 1712 and 1717 worked the lead mines around Dubuque and Galena; that as early as 1792 printed maps of this country show the Rock Island Rapids, naming them

"Nine-mile Rapids," and we further know that from 1788 to 1810 Julien Du Buque with a force of Spanish, French and Indian miners operated the lead mines near where Dubuque, Iowa, now is, and floated his lead down the Mississippi to St. Louis and New Orleans, and it is not impossible that some of these people may have explored this county and even lived here; but the first record we have of a white man stopping at this locality is when Lieutenant Pike in 1805 made his trip up the Mississippi.

#### FIRST FLAG IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

On August 9, 1805, Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, an officer in the United States Army, in command of twenty soldiers, left St. Louis under instructions from the government to trace the sources of the Mississippi River, ascertain the condition of the Indians, create a better feeling between them and the Americans and to select certain sites upon which to erect forts. The party made the voyage in a keel boat seventy feet long, and on August 27, 1805, the party arrived at the mouth of Rock River.

Black Hawk in his autobiography says: "Some time afterwards a boat came up the river with a young American chief, at that time lieutenant, and afterwards General Pike, and a small party of soldiers aboard. The boat at length arrived at Rock River and the young chief came on shore with his interpreter. He made us a speech and gave us some presents, in return for which we gave him meat and such other provisions as we could spare.

"We were well pleased with the speech of the young chief. He gave us good advice and said our American father would treat us well. He presented us an American flag which we hoisted. He then requested us to lower the British colors, which were waving in the air, and to give him our British medals, promising to send us others on his return to St. Louis. This we declined to do, as we wished to have two fathers."

The event related by Black Hawk, and occurring at the old Sac village on Rock River, in August, 1805, was the first raising and unfurling of the United States flag in the valley of the upper Mississippi River. All the country west of the Mississippi had until October, 1803, belonged to Spain, and Lieutenant Pike was the first American representative to navigate the Mississippi north of St. Louis.

#### THE WAR OF 1812.

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 gave the United States control of both banks of the upper Mississippi River. Previous to this time, but little was known of our upper river by the Americans, and not until Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike under orders from our government in 1805 came up the river from St. Louis, to discover its source, and to select locations for future United States posts, did our government have any definite knowledge concerning this country.

At the beginning of the year 1814 the war with England was still in progress and though the warfare was carried on mostly on the lakes, the Atlantic Ocean, and among the eastern states, the west, and especially the upper Mississippi River, were the scenes of important events, which owing to their distance from civilization, the lack of means and the length of time to transport news, were overlooked, and have failed to receive that recognition in American history that events of less importance, but happening in the east were accorded.

St. Louis, the American headquarters for the upper Mississippi River, *Cap au Gris*, a small French hamlet a few miles north of the mouth of the Illinois River, the deserted old post at Ft. Madison, the mines at Dubuque and the small French settlement and British post at Prairie du Chien were the only settlements on the upper river.

Colonel Robert Dickson, a British trader during the years 1811-1813 had been active in inciting the Indians of the northwest, his

object being to secure their aid in an attack on the American settlements at St. Louis, Kaskaskia and Peoria.

On March 27th, 1813, Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois, wrote the secretary of war: "If the British erect a fort at the mouth of the Wisconsin, and should be able to retain it two years, this and Missouri territory will be totally deserted, in other words, conquered."

In the beginning of the year 1814 our government decided to build a fort on the upper river at Prairie du Chien (the mouth of the Wisconsin River), where the British had the preceding year fortified the house of the Macinac Fur Company and stationed a company of Michigan fencibles (militia).

#### THE FIRST EXPEDITION.

On May 1, 1814, William Clark, governor of Missouri Territory, with a detachment consisting of sixty United States regulars of the Seventh Infantry, and one hundred and forty Illinois and Missouri rangers or volunteers, left Cap au Gris in five fortified keel boats for the mouth of the Wisconsin River there to erect a United States fort. At the mouth of the Rock River they had a slight skirmish with a party of Sauk (Sac) braves.

About the middle of April, Colonel Dickinson left Prairie du Chien, taking with him most of the British forces, together with about three hundred Indian allies. Captain Deace was left in charge of the post. His command consisted of a company of Michigan fencibles and a body of Sioux and Fox Indians. When it was learned that an American force was nearing the Prairie, the Indians refused to fight the Americans, and Captain Deace and his British soldiers fled.

Lieutenant Joseph Perkins, who was in command of the United States regulars, on his arrival at the Prairie, took possession of the place and immediately began the erection of a fort, which he named Fort Shelby in honor of Governor Shelby of Kentucky. As soon

as the fort was completed Captain John Sullivan's company of fifty rangers, thirty-two rangers from Captain Yeizer's company, together with Governor Clark, left Fort Shelby and returned to St. Louis, arriving there the last of June.

On the 17th of July Fort Shelby at Prairie du Chien was attacked by Colonel William McKay in command of one hundred and fifty British soldiers and four hundred Sioux, Winnebago, Menominee and Chippewa Indians, and on the evening of July 19th, the same day Campbell's expedition was defeated, Lieutenant Perkins surrendered Fort Shelby. The British renamed the fort, calling it Fort McKay.

#### MAJOR CAMPBELL'S EXPEDITION.

When General Howard, commandant of the American forces in the west, learned of the return of the troops from Prairie du Chien, he immediately organized another expedition to be sent up the river to reinforce Fort Shelby.

On July 4, 1814, the second expedition left Cap au Gris. It consisted of three fortified barges, or keel boats, each with a cabin and all having sails. There were thirty-three regular soldiers and sixty-five rangers (militia), some of the latter being Frenchmen from Cahokia. The expedition including the sutlers' establishment, boatmen, and women and children, making one hundred and thirty-three persons. This expedition was commanded by Lieutenant (acting Brigade Major) John Campbell of the First Regulars (infantry), who with the regulars, contractors, sutlers, women and children, occupied one boat. The two other boats being occupied by the rangers and were commanded by Lieutenant Stephen Rector and Lieutenant Jonathan Riggs. The number of regulars in this expedition has been repeatedly given as forty-two; Major Campbell, however, reports that he had but thirty-three.

On the thirteenth of the month, about eighty miles below the mouth of Rock River,



they met a party of Indians from Prairie du Chien with a packet directed to Governor Clark. These Indians informed Campbell that everything was quiet, and that the garrison at the Prairie (Prairie du Chien) had been completed. The same day Lieutenant Rector, of the rangers found a canoe which had a considerable quantity of Indian property in it, and which had just been abandoned.

On the 18th of July, about twenty miles below the mouth of Rock River, the expedition was met by a party of nine Indians in canoes, bearing a white flag, who informed Major Campbell that they had heard of the American's approach and had come to conduct them to their own town, and to inform them that the Sacs and Foxes were friendly disposed. The Indians left the keel boats a few miles below the mouth of Rock River, at the mouth of which the boats were met by five other Indians in canoes, who informed the commander that the Indians at the village on Rock River, about a mile above its mouth, wished to hold a council with him. The keel boats proceeded up the river and landed on the Illinois shore opposite the lower end of the Island of Rock Island. In a short time, about one hundred and fifty warriors, besides women and children of the Sac and Fox nation appeared. Black Hawk was at the head of the party. He approached Major Campbell and asked if he had brought any presents for him from his father. Major Campbell told Black Hawk he had, provided he fulfilled the promises he had made his father in the spring, which was to go to war with the Peaus (Winnebagoes.) Black Hawk replied that he had made his father no such promises, and that his "father was drunk when he said so," but that he was ready to go to war with the Peaus if the government would furnish him with the means. He further said: "The Mississippi is a broad and straight road and the people of the United States shall meet with no obstructions in traveling."

During the evening the Indians were very friendly, recognizing many old friends among the Frenchmen from Cahokia.

#### THE BATTLE OF CAMPBELL'S ISLAND.

On the morning of July 19, before breakfast, the boats all set sail and started up the river, with a fine breeze. During the night a party of Indians arrived at the Sac village from Prairie du Chien, coming down Rock River, Black Hawk said they brought the Sacs six kegs of powder and told them that the fort at Prairie du Chien had been captured by the British. These messengers also told the Sacs that the British wished them to again join them in the war against the Americans, which the Indians agreed to do.

Black Hawk's memory is at fault. He does not state exactly what these Indian messengers told him. Colonel McKay, whose army of British and Indians had attacked Prairie du Chien, in a letter to his superior officer, under date of July 27, 1814, says that on the 17th of July, about three o'clock in the afternoon, after the gunboat "Governor Clark" had been driven from its position by the British cannon and had started down the river, that he immediately sent off a canoe with three men; an Iowan, who had come from Mackinac with him, and two of the six Sauks, who had joined him on the Fox River, that he gave them four kegs of gun powder and ordered them to pass the "Governor Clark" and get as soon as possible to the rapids at the Rock River, where he believed the gunboat would run aground; that they should collect all the Sauks and annoy the "Governor Clark" and prevent their landing to get fire wood, etc.

Early in the morning, Black Hawk collected his warriors and determined to attack the boats, which had now started up the river. As Black Hawk says: "I collected my warriors and determined to pursue the boats. I immediately started with my party by land in pursuit, thinking that some of their boats

might get aground, or that the Great Spirit would put in our power, if he wished them taken."

The boats had just passed the head of Rock Island when the boat commanded by Major Campbell was grounded on the rocks, and he was compelled to discharge and put off part of her loading into the other boats before he could release his boat.

After proceeding about six miles the wind increased to a hurricane. Campbell's boat being still heavily loaded, he says: "I was afraid of her dashing to pieces on the rocks, and ordered her to be put shore, which in doing from the severe gale of wind which was blowing, and the roughness of the water, dashed her so hard on shore it was impossible to get her off while the storm lasted." The boat was driven on the north shore of an island lying about six miles east of Moline and which since that day has been known as Campbell's Island. It lies near the eastern shore in Rock Island County and belongs to the State of Illinois.

Black Hawk says: "About half way up the rapids I had a full view of the boats, all sailing with a strong wind; I soon discovered one boat badly managed and was suffered to be driven ashore by the wind; they landed by running hard aground, and lowered their sail, the others passed on."

The ground where the boat landed was covered with high grass, hazel and willow bushes for a considerable distance up and down the shore. Campbell immediately placed two sentinels about sixty yards from the boats and the men then commenced getting their breakfast.

They had not been on the island more than twenty-five or thirty minutes when the Indians commenced their attack, both sentinels were killed the first fire, and one other man on shore. Campbell ordered the cable cut and the boat to be gotten off, in doing of which two men were killed and three wounded. Finding the gale blowed directly on land,

and that it was impossible to get her off, he ordered his men to defend the boat to the last extremity.

The boats of Lieutenants Rector and Riggs were about three miles up the river at this time, Lieutenant Riggs' being in advance. He heard the report of the firing and saw the smoke rising from where Campbell's boat lay. He tacked his boat and signaled Rector, who also tacked and both sailed for Campbell's boat, Rector's boat being the first to reach the scene of the battle. Savages were seen among the trees and bushes, and a large number of Indians were seen coming in canoes from the eastern shore. It was estimated that about four hundred Indians surrounded them. The savages commenced giving their war-whoop and pouring in on them a fire of musketry and arrows. Major Campbell's right wrist was fractured by a musket ball during the first onslaught, and he was carried into the cabin of his boat and laid on a bunk, while his men gallantly returned the fire of the Indians.

Campbell's boat was so near the bank that the Indians were able to fire in at the port oar holes. The storm had now become so violent that it was fully an hour before the other boats were able to come to Campbell's assistance.

Riggs' boat was driven ashore about one hundred yards below Campbell's boat, and Rector to avoid a similar fate, had let go an anchor, and lay about twenty yards above Campbell's boat. The rangers from both barges kept up a brisk fire on the Indians.

This unequal contest waged for several hours, when the firing from Campbell's boat becoming less frequent, led Lieutenant Rector to believe that most of Campbell's men were either killed or wounded.

Riggs' boat was the best fortified, but his crew had been weakened. When Campbell's boat was stranded on the rocks he sent a sergeant and ten men to help him off, and Campbell did not return the men.

Rector's boat had among its crew many of the French from Cahokia who were experienced sailors. The wind was still a raging tempest, and the fire of the Indians was becoming more destructive to the boats. "At this time," Black Hawk says, "I prepared my bow and arrows to throw fire to the sail, which was laying on the boat, and after two or three attempts succeeded in setting the sail on fire." Campbell's boat was soon in flames. Lieutenant Rector could not remain inactive and witness the horrible death of Campbell and his companions. In the face of the tempest and the galling fire of the foe, he cut his anchors, a number of his men got out into the water, keeping the boat between them and the Indians, they pushed their boat against the fire of the Indians up to Campbell's boat. The wounded in Campbell's boat were first transferred to Rector's boat, and then those who were unhurt; so loaded was Rector's boat that the water was running in at the oar holes and almost all of the provisions were thrown overboard to lighten the boat. The Indians all the time kept up a murderous fire. In taking the men from Campbell's boat the Major was shot through the body. Black Hawk in his autobiography states at this time: "We wounded the war chief."

Rector's men still in the water, and keeping the boat between them and the Indians, hauled their boat out into the stream, swimming alongside of the boat until the channel was reached and the boat had been carried out of gunshot, when they climbed into the boat. Rector's boat was crowded, but the men took to their oars and rowed night and day until they reached St. Louis.

The casualties were: killed on Campbell's boat, ten regulars, one woman and one child; on Rector's boat, one ranger, and on Riggs' boat, three rangers; a total of sixteen.

Wounded on Campbell's boat, ten regulars and one woman; on Rector's boat, four rangers, and on Riggs' boat four rangers; also

Major Campbell and Dr. Stewart, the garrison surgeon, who was shot in the breast; a total of twenty-one, making the total casualties thirty-seven. All fought with the courage of heroes. Rector and his men risked their lives to save their comrades, and the battle at Campbell's Island has no equal for daring and heroism during the War of 1812 in the west.

Lieutenant John Weaver, of the regulars, who was second in command on Campbell's boat acted bravely; it was largely by his exertions that the wounded were safely transferred to Rector's boat.

Almost all of the ammunition for the expedition and the supplies for Fort Shelby, except a box of musket balls, was on Campbell's boat and captured by Black Hawk, nothing being saved. The regulars fought with their shirts off, and saved only their arms and fatigue overalls.

#### BLACK HAWK CELEBRATES.

After Riggs' boat had gone, Black Hawk's warriors began to plunder Campbell's boat. The first thing that the chief did was to knock the head in of several barrels of whiskey, which he termed, "bad medicine" and emptied their contents on the ground. He says, "I next found a box full of small bottles and packages, which appeared to be bad medicine also; such as the medicine men kill the white people with when they get sick, this I threw into the river." The rest of the plunder, which consisted of guns, clothing, provisions, powder, etc., was loaded into their canoes and taken to the Fox village opposite the lower end of Rock Island, where Davenport now is. Before leaving, the Indians took the scalp from Campbell's five dead regulars, and as Black Hawk said when he got to the Fox village, "We commenced dancing over the scalps we had taken."

Black Hawk's opinion of whiskey as a medicine must have changed over night, because

he does not complain at the soldiers giving his men whiskey the evening before, yet the next day he thought it "bad medicine."

While Black Hawk and his Indians were dancing over their scalps, several boats passed down the river, among them a large boat, "carrying big guns." These boats were the "Governor Clark" and the contractor's and sutler's barges from Prairie du Chien, which garrison Campbell's expedition was intending to strengthen, but which had been attacked by the British under Colonel McKay, on the seventeenth, two days previous.

Captain Yeizer and his gunboats leaving Prairie du Chien during the afternoon on the first day of the attack and started for St. Louis, leaving Lieutenant Perkins and his command, which consisted of sixty men, together with two women and one child, to hold the fort which surrendered July 19th, after a three day's siege.

#### THE DERELICT.

Lieutenant Campbell's boat lay for many years on the north shore of Campbell's Island, where the State Monument now stands. Benjamin Goble, an old settler often told of seeing the hull imbedded in sand. He says:

"Soon after Stephens left, two men named Smith, took possession of his claim, there were two cabins on it, but neither had a floor. The river was low, so that the hull of the barge burned by the Indians at the time of Campbell's defeat in 1812, (a mistake, it was 1814) was plainly visible. The Smiths got the hull ashore, found the planks in a good state of preservation and floored their cabins with them." This was in 1829. The Stephens whom he mentions was a planter from the south, who located where Walker Station, two miles east of Moline, now is."

#### MAJOR TAYLOR'S BATTLE.

After the capture of Fort Shelby by the British, Colonel William McKay left for Macinac and Captain Thomas G. Anderson was in

command. The British had great influence with the northwest Indians, and it is not to be wondered at as they made the Indians believe that the Americans would drive out the Indian, while the British wanted the Indian to retain his lands. In a letter dated August 21, 1814, Colonel R. McDonall, British commandant, wrote Captain Anderson: "Assure them (Sacs and Foxes) that great efforts are being made by the king in their behalf, and that the ministry are determined to make no peace till the lands plundered from the Indians are restored. To attain this purpose, great reinforcements of troops are coming out."

On August 14th, Lieutenant Duncan Graham with six men and an interpreter, left Fort McKay for the Sac village near the mouth of Rock River, his mission being to enlist the Sacs in an expedition to bring up an American gunboat which had been abandoned at a point a short distance above the unoccupied Fort Madison.

On August 21st, the British at Fort McKay were apprised by the Fox Indians that a third American expedition was on its way up the Mississippi River from St. Louis, and Captain Anderson, commanding Fort McKay, sent a dispatch to Lieutenant Graham at the Sac village on Rock River, requesting him to learn all about the Americans and to inform him. At this time there were about 800 braves at the Rock River village. Graham returned to Fort McKay, and on the 27th was again sent to the Sac village near the mouth of Rock River. This time he had with him a company of British soldiers numbering thirty men, also one brass three-pounder and two swivels, his object being to annoy and harass the American expedition and if possible defeat them and drive them back to St. Louis.

The American expedition was formed at Cap au Gris, and consisted of eight large fortified keel boats, carrying a detachment of 334 soldiers, and started on August 23d. It



was commanded by Major Zachary Taylor, afterwards President of the United States. On the afternoon of September 5th, the American fleet arrived at the mouth of Rock River. Lieutenant Graham on his return to the Rock River village found that the Indians now numbered about fifteen hundred, several bands of Winnebagoes and Sioux having joined the Sacs and Foxes, who he said "would stand by us to the last man." Graham wrote that he would take his position on Rock Island at the rapids, which was the best place for defense that he knew on the Mississippi. On September 5th the British soldiers moved their guns and planted them on the west side of the island at the narrowed part of the channel, about where the present bridge rests on the island. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the American fleet appeared in sight of the British. A storm of rain, thunder and lightning came on which compelled the American boats to land at the small Willow Island, about sixty yards above Credit Island (now Suburban Island, Davenport). Here the Americans decided to pass the night. Large numbers of Indians appeared on the Illinois and Iowa shores as well as on Credit Island, but not a gun was fired. Early the morning of the 6th the British and Indians crossed the Mississippi River to the Fox village on the west bank and went as quickly as possible through the prairie to the beach opposite the American boats, where they had a close view of them. Lieutenant Graham selected the Sioux to guard the cannon because he said "as they promised they would rather be killed to the last man than give up the guns." The British planted their guns on an elevated spot, where they commanded a view of the Willow Island as well as the upper part of Credit Island. This place is about where the dam commences that leads to Suburban Island. The night before Graham had cautioned the Indians not to fire without orders from him, but a Sauk warrior during the night shot a corporal on one of the

American boats commanded by Captain Whiteside. At daylight Major Taylor ordered his men to attack the Indians and drive them from the Willow Island, where they had appeared in large numbers. The American soldiers charged the enemy, who retreated, wading to Credit Island. Major Taylor then ordered Captain Nelson Rector to drop his boat down to Credit Island and rake the island with artillery and drive the Indians off. Rector did so, the Indians retreating unto cover.

Of Rector's charge an early writer said: "Captain Rector was dressed richly, with a splendid military uniform and a large red feather in his hat. Thus equipped, he drew his sword and walked deliberately on an open sand beach, a short distance from the enemy, and ordered his company to follow him. Many Indian guns were fired at him, which he disregarded as if they were popguns. He escaped, but it was miraculous, as he was alone in advance of his company."

Captain Nelson Rector was a brother of Lieutenant Stephen Rector, who on July 19th so heroically rescued Lieutenant Campbell and his ill-fated boat's crew at Campbell's Island.

At this time, about 7 o'clock, the British guns began to play on the American boats. The first shot passed through Lieutenant Hempstead's boat. Lieutenant Graham in his report dated September 7th said: "In about three-quarters of an hour the largest of their boats, which was ahead of the others, after having about fifteen shots through her, began to push off, and dropped astern of the rest, and made her way down the current. The others soon followed her. We kept firing at them along the bank as far as the ground would permit us to drag the guns, but they soon got out of our reach." The engagement lasted about one hour. Major Taylor in his report said: "I was compelled to drop down about three miles before a proper place presented itself for landing, as but few of the

boats had anchors sufficient to stop them in the river. Here I halted for the purpose of having the wounded attended and some of the boats repaired, as some of them had been injured by the enemy's artillery." The landing was on the Illinois shore.

The British and Indians had no losses, while the Americans had eleven men badly wounded, three mortally. Taylor's fleet returned to St. Louis. An early writer said: "I saw in the harbor at St. Louis the boats that were in Taylor's battle at Rock Island, and they were riddled with the cannon balls. I think the balls were made of lead—at any rate they pierced the boats considerably."

This was the third American expedition up the Mississippi River in the year 1814, all ending in defeat and disaster. The British and Indians had possession of the country until December 24th, when the peace of Ghent ended the war.

In his autobiography, Black Hawk says: "The British landed a big gun and gave us three soldiers to manage it." Writers of Western History have differed regarding Taylor's engagement, some accepting Black Hawk's version, have credited the battle as solely an Indian victory, saying the Indians were re-inforced by only three British soldiers and one cannon. Others have said that there were present a large number of British soldiers. Neither Taylor or Graham knew who was in command of the other party, and nowhere was I able to learn the details, until during the winter of 1906 and 1907, I found in the Canadian archives the correspondence between the British officers relating to the part they took in this early western event. From these archives, I learned that Black Hawk had a company of British soldiers with three cannons. That the cannon were first planted on the Island of Rock Island two years before the erection of Fort Armstrong, on ground afterwards occupied by Fort Armstrong and that Suburban Island as early as 1814 was known as Credit Island.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

The first white settler in this county was George Davenport, who came to the Island of Rock Island in the spring of 1816 with Colonel William Lawrence and the Eighth Regiment of United States regulars at the time Fort Armstrong was built. In 1817 Davenport built a double log cabin on the Island of Rock Island at the place where the "Old Davenport House" now stands, one part of which he used as a store in which he carried on the business of an Indian trader. The old ruin now standing on the north shore of the island was built in 1833 and was for many years the most pretentious residence above St. Louis, the timbers in the old Trading House being used in constructing the new dwelling. In 1824 Russell Farnham came from Warsaw and entered into partnership with Davenport under the firm name of Davenport & Farnham. In 1826 Davenport and Farnham built the house on the main land just west of the P. L. Cable residence and afterwards occupied by John Barrel. This house was used for many years as the seat of justice for this county and in our county records is referred to as the "House of John Barrel."

In 1828 the country along Rock River had not been surveyed and consequently was not open to entry. Yet the fame of the fertility of the soil and the beauty of the country had attracted the pioneer who is always in advance of the settler, and who often is termed the squatter, and these people relying upon the protection of Fort Armstrong began to select homes in this valley. During the year 1828 there were eight settlers to arrive—Captain B. W. Clark, an old soldier named Haney, Judge Pence, who settled on Rock River, and John Kinney, Thomas Kinney, George Harlan, Conrad Leek and Archibald Allen, the last five settling where Rapids City now is.

The year 1829 brought a number of newcomers—Judge John W. Spencer, who had been here the year before; Loudon Case, Sr., and his three sons, Jonah, Loudon, Jr., and

Charles, who settled on what is now known as the Case place on Rock River; Rinah Wells and his four sons, Rinah, Jr., Lucius, John and Samuel, who also settled on Rock River; Joel Wells, Jr., who settled near Hampton; Joel Wells, Sr., Levi and Huntington Wells, who settled at Moline; Joseph Danforth a mile above Moline; Michael Bartlett where Deere & Mansur's factory, Moline, now is; George Goble and his son, Benjamin, about two miles above Moline; William Brashar, who settled south of the present city of Rock Island; Joshua Vandruff and his sons, who settled on Vandruff's Island; Charles H. Case and Benjamin F. Pike.

#### SLAVERY.

At this time in the southern part of the the state negroes were held in bondage, under what was known and recognized as the indentured or registered servant's act. This was contrary to the ordinance of 1787 which governed the admission of Illinois into the union as a state, but our Legislature enacted laws which our courts upheld, by which slavery existed in Illinois. In May, 1829, a man named Stephens from St. Louis settled on the Mississippi where Walker Station now is, two miles east of Moline, bringing with him twenty black slaves, and built two cabins. There were but few settlers in this locality, but this new departure was not in accord with their ideas, and in October Joseph Danforth traveled to the nearest justice of the peace, who resided at Galena, and secured from him a warrant for Stephens' arrest for holding slaves. George Goble, the father of Benjamin Goble, knowing Danforth's intention, warned Stephens, who immediately started south with his slaves. Stephens' two cabins were afterwards taken by two brothers named Smith, who floored the cabins with planks taken from the hull of Major Campbell's keel boat, which had burned only to the water's edge, and which had lain imbedded in the sand on Campbell's Island where it stranded

on that ill fated July 19, 1814. No one after this ever tried to own slaves in this county, although some of the officers at Fort Armstrong had negro servants, some of whom were held as indentured blacks, a few as slaves. One of the latter afterwards gained national prominence.

Dred Scott was a negro slave owned by Dr. John Emerson, a surgeon in the United States Army, and in the year 1834 came with the doctor from Missouri to Fort Armstrong on Rock Island, where the doctor was stationed. Scott remained at Fort Armstrong until May, 1836, when he went with the doctor to Fort Snelling (now Minnesota) where he married Harriet, a slave of his master, and had two children. Slavery was illegal in both places; in Illinois by our constitution; in Minnesota (Upper Louisiana Purchase) by the Missouri Compromise.

In 1838 Scott was taken to Jefferson Barracks, a military post at St. Louis, Missouri, and here an action was brought in the circuit court of the state by Scott to test the question of his freedom. The St. Louis court held that Scott's residence on free soil had made him FREE. The case was appealed to the supreme court of Missouri which court reversed the decision of the St. Louis circuit court and held Scott was a slave. In the meantime Dr. Emerson had sold Dred and his family to John F. A. Sanford of New York and suit was brought against Sanford in the United States court for Scott's freedom.

This case was tried at St. Louis on May 15th, before the court and a jury, and the latter found that "Dred Scott was a negro slave, the lawful property of the defendant." A new trial was refused, and Scott carried his case to the supreme court of the United States.

The final decision in the Dred Scott case was the longest, and up to that period, the most interesting one ever given by the supreme court of the United States. It is reported in the 19th Howard. The substance of the decision was:

"Scott was not made free by being taken to Rock Island in the State of Illinois. As Scott was a slave when taken to Fort Armstrong into the State of Illinois by his owner, and was then held as such, and brought back into Missouri in that character, his status, as free or slave, depended on the laws of Missouri, and not of Illinois. He and his family were not free, but were, by the laws of Missouri, the property of the defendant."

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF LANDS.

In 1828 and the early part of 1829 George Davenport and Russell Farnham entered the lands upon which the old fair grounds were located, and which extended from there about one mile east. William T. Brashar entered the lands upon a portion of which is now located Chippianock Cemetery. These and other pre-emptions were upon lands that had for nearly a century been the village and the cornfields of the Sacs. These entries were within the letter, but contrary to the spirit of the treaty of 1804. These lands were not open to settlers, nor brought into the market until the latter part of 1829, and one authority says: "Consequently all who had settled on them previous to this were trespassers, having violated the laws of congress and the pre-existing treaties. The most advanced settlements at that time did not approach nearer than fifty or sixty miles of Rock Island, and the lands for even a greater distance had not been offered for sale, yet the government disposed of a few quarter sections at the mouth of this stream, embracing the site of the village and fields cultivated by the inhabitants. The manifest object of this advanced movement upon the Indian settlements was to evade the provisions of the treaty, by having the governmental title to the lands pass into the hands of the individuals, and thus obtain a pretext for removing its owners west of the Mississippi.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

By an act of the Illinois Legislature entitled "An act to establish Rock Island County," approved and in force February 9, 1831, it was provided by Section 1 thereof what the boundaries of this county shall be. Section 2 provided that whenever it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the presiding judge of the circuit court of Jo Daviess County, to which this county was then attached, that the said County of Rock Island contains three hundred and fifty inhabitants, it shall be his duty to grant an order for the election of three commissioners, one sheriff and one coroner to serve in and for said county until they be superseded by the persons elected at the next general election, which shall take place after the special election herein provided for. The act then states that after such election the said County of Rock Island shall be considered as organized and entitled to the same rights and privileges as the other counties in this state. Owing, however, to the Black Hawk War no effort was made to organize the county until 1833, when on Monday, July 5, in pursuance of due notice the legal voters of this county to the number of sixty-five met at the "House of John Barrel," and elected county officers.

#### THE BEGINNING OF TROUBLE.

In the spring of 1831, when Black Hawk and his people returned from their winter hunt, they found the few white settlers whom they had left the fall before increased by many new comers. They found the Indian homes occupied by pale faces, and among their corn hills they found the white man's wagon. But more aggravating yet, they found the bones of their ancestors disturbed and laid bare upon the ground by the white man's plow. Black Hawk and his people had borne much the past few years but this seemed too much. He protested, and was told the white man had bought the land from his white



father in Washington. He could not understand this. Judge John W. Spencer in his "Reminiscences" says: "Black Hawk gave the settlers to understand that after this season they must go south of Rock River, or above Pleasant Valley. \* \* \* This move on the part of the Indians made it necessary for the settlers to look about and see what they could do for their protection," and, Judge Spencer says, "We had petitioned the governor of the state in the summer of 1829 without his taking any notice, but now we concluded to try it again. We made a statement of our grievance, and of the order of Black Hawk for our removal, and forwarded it with all possible haste to the governor. This had the desired effect."

#### THE ROCK ISLAND PETITION.

The following is the petition sent to the governor by citizens of Rock Island:

"April 30, 1831.

"His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Illinois:

"We, the undersigned, being citizens of Rock River and its vicinity, beg leave to state to your honor the grievances which we labor under and pray your protection against the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians who have again taken possession of our lands near the mouth of Rock River and its vicinity. They have, and now are, burning our fences, destroying our crops of wheat now growing by turning in all their horses. They also threaten our lives if we attempt to plant corn, and say they will cut it up; that we have stolen their lands from them, and they are determined to exterminate us, provided we don't leave the country. Your honor, no doubt, is aware of the outrages that were committed by said Indians heretofore. Particularly last all, they almost destroyed all our crops, and made several attempts on the owners' lives when they attempted to prevent their depredations, and actually wounded one man by

stabbing him in several places. This spring they act in a much more outrageous and menacing manner, so that we consider ourselves compelled to beg protection of you, which the agent and garrison on Rock Island refuse to give, inasmuch as they say they have no orders from government; therefore, should we not receive adequate aid from your honor, we shall be compelled to abandon our settlement, and the lands which we have purchased of the government. Therefore, we have no doubt but your honor will better anticipate our condition than it is represented, and grant us immediate relief in the manner that to you may seem most likely to produce the desired effect. The number of Indians now among us is about six or seven hundred. They say there are more coming, and that the Pottawatomies and some of the Winnebagoes will help them in case of an irruption with the whites.

"The warriors now here are the Black Hawk's party, with other chiefs, the names of whom we are not acquainted with. Therefore, looking up to you for protection, we beg leave to remain, yours, etc."

(SIGNED)

John Wells	Thomas Lovitt
B. F. Pike	William Heans
H. McNeil	Charles French
Albert Wells	M. S. Hulls
Griffith Ausbury	Eli Wells
Thomas Gardiner	Asaph Wells
J. Vandruft	G. V. Miller
S. Vandruft	Edward Burner
John L. Bain	Joel Thompson
Horace Cook	Joel Wells, Jr.
David B. Hail	J. W. Spencer
John Barrel	Joseph Danforth
William Henry	William Brazher
Erastus Kent	Jonah H. Case
Levi Wells	Samuel Wells
Joel Wells	Charles French
Michael Bartlet	Benjamin Goble
Huntington Wells	Gentry McCall
Thomas Davis	

## THE INDIAN AGENT REPORTS.

The settlers not hearing from Governor Reynolds and receiving no aid from the officials at Fort Armstrong, applied to the Indian agent, and he wrote the following letter:

"Rock Island, May 15, 1831.

"Respected Sir: I have again to mention to you that the Black Hawk (a Sac chief) and his party are now at their old village on Rock River. They have commenced planting corn and say they will keep possession. I have been informed that they have pulled down a house and some fences which they have burned. They have also turned their horses in wheat fields and say they will destroy the wheat so that the white people shall not remain among them.

"This is what I expected from their manner of acting last fall, and which I mentioned to you in my letter of the 8th October last. I would not be at a loss were it not for the seventh article of the treaty with the Sacs and Foxes of 3d November, 1804.

"I respectfully ask, would it not be better to hold a treaty with those Indians and get them to remove peaceably, than to call on the military to force them off? None of this band has as yet called on me for information. A few have been at my agency to have work done at the smith's shops. I have the honor to be,

"Your obedient servant,

"FELIX ST. VRAIN, Indian Agent.

"Gen. William Clark, Supt. Ind. of St. Louis."

## WHISKEY THE CAUSE.

One of the settlers living on what is now Vandruff's Island, kept a sort of tavern where whiskey was sold, and here the Indians came to barter for fire water. Black Hawk saw his people bartering off their peltries and game for whiskey and he saw the ruin that the white man's "fire water" was creating among them. He protested and begged the

white man to stop selling the Indians whiskey, but the sale went on. One day he, with some five or six of his braves, paddled in their canoes from their village to Vandruff's Island. Silently the old chief marched up to the cabin followed by his braves. They did not stop to knock, but entered the door and silently rolled the barrel of whiskey outside the cabin, knocked in the head with their tomahawks and allowed the pale faces' "fire water" to run on the ground. Then they rowed back to their village.

This last act of the Indians greatly excited the whites and Benjamin F. Pike, a settler, afterwards our first sheriff, was sent to Belleville in St. Clair County to personally ask the governor for assistance. He took with him the following petition from the settlers.

## THE SECOND PETITION.

"Farnhamburg, May 19, 1831.

"To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of Illinois:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of Rock River and its vicinity, having previously sent a petition to your honor, praying your protection against these Sac Indians who were at that time doing every kind of mischief as was set forth and represented to your honor; but feeling ourselves more aggrieved and our situation more precarious, we have been compelled to make our distress known to you by sending one of our neighbors who is well acquainted with our situation. If we do not get relief speedily we must leave our habitations to these savages and seek safety for our families by taking them down into the lower counties and suffer our houses and fences to be destroyed, as one of the principal war chiefs has threatened if we do not abandon our settlement his warriors should burn our houses over our heads. They were, at the time we sent our other petition, destroying our crops of wheat, and are still pasturing their horses in our fields, burning our fences, and have

thrown the roof off one house. They shot arrows at our cattle, killed our hogs, and every mischief.

"We have tried every argument to the agent for relief, but he tells us they are a lawless band, and he has nothing to do with them until further orders, leaving us still in suspense, as the Indians say if we plant we shall not reap, a proof of which we had last fall; they almost entirely destroyed all our crops of corn, potatoes, etc. Believing we shall receive protection from your excellency we shall go on with our farms until the return of the bearer; and ever remain your humble supplicants, etc."

This petition was signed by almost all the persons who signed the first petition. On his way to Belleville in St. Clair County, where Governor Reynolds lived, Mr Pike stopped over in Fulton County where he secured the following affidavit:

"State of Illinois, Fulton County.

"Personally appeared before me, Stephen Dewey, an acting justice of the peace in and for said County of Fulton, and State of Illinois, Hiram Sanders and Ammyson Chapman, of the aforesaid county and state, and made oath that some time in the month of April last they went to the old Indian Sac town, about thirty miles up Rock River, for the purpose of farming and establishing a ferry across said river, and the Indians ordered us to move away and not to come there again, and we remained there a few hours.

"They then sent for their chief and he informed us that we might depart peaceably and if we did not that he would make us go.

"He therefore ordered the Indians to throw our furniture out of the house; they accordingly did so and threatened to kill us if we did not depart. We therefore discovered that our lives were in danger, and consequently moved back again to the above county.

"We then supposed them to be principally Winnebagoes.

"H. SANDERS,

"A. CHAPMAN.

"Sworn and subscribed this 11th day of May, 1831.

"STEPHEN DEWEY, J. P.

BENJAMIN F. PIKE'S AFFIDAVIT.

Upon his arrival at Belleville Pike prepared the following statement:

"State of Illinois, St. Clair County.

"Present, Benjamin F. Pike, before me, a justice of the peace in and for the said county, and made oath and deposed, that he has resided in the vicinity of Rock River, in the State of Illinois, for almost three years last past; that he is well acquainted with the band of the Sac Indians whose chief is the Black Hawk, and who have resided and do now reside near the mouth of Rock River in this state; that he understands so much of the said Indian language as to converse with the said Indians intelligibly; that he is well satisfied that said Indians, to the amount of about three hundred warriors, are extremely unfriendly to the white people; that said Indians are determined, if not prevented by force, to drive off the white people, who have some of them purchased land of the United States near said Indians, and said Indians to remain sole occupiers of the said country.

"That said Indians do not only make threats to this effect, but have, in various instances, done much damage to said white inhabitants, by throwing down their fences, destroying the fall grain, pulling off the roofs of houses, and positively asserting that if the whites do not go away they would kill them; that there are about forty inhabitants and heads of families in the vicinity of said Indians who are immediately affected by said band of Indians; that said Pike is certain that said forty heads of families, if not protected, will be compelled to leave their habitations and

homes from the actual injury that said Indians will commit on said inhabitants; that said band of Indians consists, as above stated, of about three hundred warriors, and that the whole band is actuated by the same hostile feelings towards the white inhabitants; and that, if not prevented by an armed force of men, will commit on said white inhabitants. That said Indians have said that they would fight for their country where they reside, and would not permit the white people to occupy it at all. That said white inhabitants are desirous to be protected, and that immediately, so that they may raise crops this spring and summer.

"BENJAMIN F. PIKE.

"Sworn and subscribed before me, this 26th May, 1831.

"JOHN H. DENNIS, J. P."

GOVERNOR REYNOLDS ACTS.

Pike presented his petition from the Rock River settlers and these affidavits personally to Governor Reynolds, who on the same day issued a call for seven hundred mounted militia, to move the Indians west of the Mississippi River. He also wrote the following letter to General Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs:

"Belleville, 26th May, 1831.

"Sir: In order to protect the citizens of this state, who reside near Rock River, from Indian invasion and depredations, I have considered it necessary to call out a force of militia of this state of about seven hundred strong, to remove a band of the Sac Indians who are now about Rock Island. The object of the government of the state is to protect those citizens by removing said Indians, peaceably if they can, but forcibly if they must. Those Indians are now, and so I have considered them, in a state of actual invasion of the state.

"As you act as the public agent of the United States in relation to those Indians, I considered it my duty to inform you of the

above call on the militia and that in or about fifteen days a sufficient force will appear before said Indians to remove them, dead or alive, over to the west side of the Mississippi; but to save all this disagreeable business, perhaps a request from you to them for them to remove to the west side of the river would effect the object of procuring peace to the citizens of the state. There is no disposition on the part of the people of this state to injure those unfortunate and deluded savages if they will let us alone; but a government that does not protect its citizens deserves not the name of a government. Please correspond with me at this place on this subject.

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN REYNOLDS.

"Gen. Clark, Supt., etc."

Felix St. Vrain, the then agent for the Sacs and Foxes, had in the meantime gone to St. Louis and in the following letter sets out the situation at Rock River:

"St. Louis, May 28, 1831.

"Respected Sir: Since my last of the 15th inst. on the subject of the band of Sac Indians, etc., the Indian village on Rock River near Rock Island, I have heard from the Indians and some of the whites that a house had been unroofed instead of pulled down and burned, and that the fence had caught fire by accident. As regards the destroying of the wheat, etc., the Indians say that a white man hauled some timber through a field and left the fence down by which means their horses got into the field. This, however, has been contradicted by the white inhabitants of that place. They say that the Indians are constantly troubling them by letting their horses into their fields and killing their hogs, etc. This, however, I am confident is occasioned in a great measure by whiskey being given to the Indians in exchange for their guns, traps, etc.

"I had a talk with the principal chief and braves of that band of Indians. I spoke to



the Black Thunder, who is the principal of that band. I told them that they had sold those lands to the government of the United States and that they ought to remove to their own lands. They then said that they had only sold the lands south of the river. I then produced the treaties and explained to them that they had relinquished their rights as far as the Ouisconsin. Quash-quam-me (the Jumping Fish) then said that he had only consented to the limits being Rock River, but that a Fox chief agreed (as he understands, afterwards) for the Ouisconsin; that he (Quash-quam-me) had been deceived and that he did not intend it to be so. I had considerable talk with them on this subject, and could discover nothing hostile in their disposition unless their decided conviction of their right to the place could be construed as such. I have been informed that a white man and his family had gone to an Indian village on the borders of Rock River about forty miles from Rock Island, for the purpose of establishing a ferry, and that the Indians at that place had driven them away at the same time saying to them that they would not hurt them, but they should not live there. This village is occupied by a mixture of Winnebago, Sac and Fox band and headed by the Prophet, a chief. I have the honor to be

"Your obedient servant,

"FELIX ST. VRAIN, Indian Agent.

"Gen. William Clark, Supt. Indian Affairs,  
St. Louis."

Upon receipt of Governor Reynolds' letter, General William Clark sent to General Edward P. Gaines the following letter:

"Superintendency of Indian Affairs.

"St. Louis, May 28, 1831.

"Sir: I have the honor to inclose you a copy of a letter of 26th inst., just received from the Governor of Illinois, by which you will perceive he has thought it necessary to call out a force of about 700 militia for the

protection of the citizens of that state, who reside near Rock River, and for the purpose of removing a band of Sacs which he states are now about Rock Island.

"As the commanding general of this division of the army, I have thought it my duty to communicate to you the above information; and for the purpose of putting you in possession of the views of the government in relation to this subject, as well as to inform you of the means which have been heretofore employed for the removal of the Sacs now complained of, I enclose to you herewith copies of my correspondence with the war department and with the agent for those tribes, also extracts from such of their reports as had immediate relation to the subject.

"The Sacs and Foxes have been counseled with on the subject of their removal from the lands which they had ceded to the United States. The prospect of collisions with the white settlers who were then purchasing those lands, and the interminable difficulties in which they would be involved thereby were pointed out, and had the effect of convincing a large majority of both tribes of the impropriety of remaining at their old village. They, therefore, acquiesced in the justice of the claim of the United States and expressed their willingness to comply with my request to remove to their new village on Ioway River, west of the Mississippi, all but parts of two bands headed by two inconsiderable chiefs, who, after abandoning their old village, have, it appears, returned again, in defiance of all consequences.

"Those bands are distinguished and known by the name of 'The British Party,' having been for many years in the habit of making annual visits at Malden in Upper Canada for the purpose of receiving their presents, and it is believed to be owing in a great measure to the counsels they have there received, that so little influence has been acquired over them by the United States agents.

"In justice to Keokuk, Wapello the Stab-

bing Chief, and, indeed, all the other real chiefs and principal men of both tribes, it should be observed that they have constantly and zealously co-operated with the government agents in furtherance of its views, and in their endeavors to effect the removal of all their property from the ceded lands.

"Any information in my possession which you may deem necessary in relation to this subject will be promptly afforded. With high respect, I have the honor to be

"Your most obedient servant,

"WILLIAM CLARK.

"Major-General Edmund P. Gaines, Commanding Western Department, U. S. A.

"P. S. The agent for the Sacs and Foxes (Mr. St. Vrain) has received his instructions and will perform any service you may require of him with the Sacs and Foxes."

General Clark the same day sent to Governor Reynolds the following communication in reply to his letter:

"Superintendency of Indian Affairs,

"St. Louis, May 28, 1831.

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., informing me of your having considered it necessary to call out a force of militia of about seven hundred for the protection of the citizens of Illinois who reside near Rock Island invasion and for the purpose of removing a band of Sac Indians who are now about Rock Island, etc.

"You intimate that to prevent the necessity of employing this force, perhaps a request from me to those Indians to remove to the west side of the Mississippi would effect the object of procuring peace to the citizens of your state. In answer of which I would beg leave to observe, that every effort on my part has been made to effect the removal of all those tribes who had ceded their lands. For the purpose of affording you a view (in part) of what has been done in this matter, I enclose you herewith extracts from the re-

ports of the agents for the Sacs and Foxes, by which it will be seen that every means, short of actual force, has been employed to effect their removal.

"I have communicated the contents of your letter to General Gaines, who commands the western division of the army, and who has full power to act and execute any military movement deemed necessary for the protection of the frontier. I shall also furnish him with such information regarding the Sacs and Foxes as I am possessed of, and would beg leave to refer you to him for any further proceedings in relation to this subject. I have the honor to be, with great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"WM. CLARK.

"His Excellency, John Reynolds, Governor of Illinois."

Governor Reynolds certainly meant business, for on the same day he sent the following letter:

"Belleville, May 28, 1831.

"General Gaines.

"Sir: I have received undoubted information that the section of this state near Rock Island is actually invaded by a hostile band of the Sac Indians headed by Black Hawk; and in order to repel said invasion, and to protect the citizens of the state, I have, under the provisions of the constitution of the United States and the laws of this state, called on the militia, to the number of 700 men, who will be mounted and ready for service in a very short time. I consider it my duty to lay before you the above information, so as you, commanding the military forces of the United States in this part of the Union, may adopt such measures in regard to said Indians as you deem right.

"The above mentioned mounted volunteers (because such they will be) will be in readiness immediately to move against said Indians, and, as Executive of the State of Illinois, I respectfully solicit your co-opera-

tion in this business. Please honor me with an answer to this letter.

"With sincere respect to your character,

"I am, your obedient servant,

"JOHN REYNOLDS."

To which letter General Gaines replied as follows:

"H. Q. Western Department, May 29, 1831.  
"His Excellency, Governor Reynolds.

"Sir: I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, advising me of your having received undoubted information that the section of the frontier of your state near Rock Island is invaded by a hostile band of Sac Indians headed by a chief called Black Hawk. That in order to repel said invasion, and to protect the citizens of the state, you have called on the militia to the number of 700 militiamen to be in readiness immediately to move against the Indians, and you solicit my co-operation.

"In reply, it is my duty to state to you that I have ordered six companies of the regular troops stationed at Jefferson Barracks to embark tomorrow morning and repair forthwith to the spot occupied by the hostile Sacs. To this detachment I shall, if necessary, add four companies. With this force I am satisfied that I shall be able to repel the invasion and give security to the frontier inhabitants of the state. But should the hostile band be sustained by the residue of the Sac, Fox and other Indians to an extent requiring an augmentation of my force, I will, in that event, communicate with Your Excellency by express and avail myself of the co-operation which you propose. But, under existing circumstances, and the present aspect of our Indian relations on the Rock Island section of the frontier, I do not deem it necessary or proper to require militia, or any other description of force, other than that of the regular army at this place and Prairie du Chien.

"I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND P. GAINES,

"Major-General by Brevet, Command."

General Clark the following day forwarded to the War Department at Washington the following communication:

"Superintendency of Indian Affairs,

"St. Louis, May 30, 1831.

"Sir: On the 28th inst. I had the honor of receiving a letter from the Governor of Illinois dated the 28th, informing me of the measures which he had considered it necessary to pursue for the protection of the citizens of his state from Indian invasion and for the purpose of removing a band of Sacs then about Rock Island. A copy of his letter and my answer herewith enclosed.

"Deeming the information received from the Governor of Illinois important, I immediately communicated it to General Gaines who happened to be in this place at the time, and shortly after was called upon by Governor Reynolds himself, to whom I gave such information respecting the Sacs complained of as had come to my knowledge, and also furnished him with such of the reports of the agent for those tribes as had relation to the subject. To the Commanding General I furnished similar information; and also for the purpose of possessing him of the views of the government on that subject, I gave him copies of such of my correspondence with the War Department as had any relation thereto.

"I also enclose to you copies of two reports of the agent for the Sacs and Foxes of the 15th and 28th inst. By the first it will be seen that the band complained of is determined to keep possession of their old village; and it is probable from a knowledge of the disposition evinced in the matter by the Sacs and for the purpose of dispossessing them, that the Commanding General has thought proper to make a display in that quarter of a

part of the force under his command, six companies of which are now leaving this place for Rock River. The expedition (be the result what it may) cannot fail of producing good effects, even should the Indians be disposed to move peaceably to their own lands; and if not, their opposition should, in my opinion, be put down at once.

"I have the honor to be, with high respect,

"Your most obedient servant,

"WILLIAM CLARK.

"The Hon. John H. Eaton, Secretary of War."

#### GAINES GOES TO FORT ARMSTRONG.

General Gaines immediately proceeded to Fort Armstrong and upon his arrival with his troops commenced putting the fort in condition to withstand a siege if necessary. The six companies he brought with him from Jefferson Barracks were strengthened by four additional companies from Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. All the settlers in this vicinity were warned of impending danger and came to the fort with their families, bringing their horses, cattle and everything of value that could be carried. The soldiers began target practice, and morning and evening guns were fired, something not heretofore done. June 5, General Gaines sent for Black Hawk, Keokuk, Wapello and other chiefs for the purpose of holding a council. Black Hawk came to the council attended by all his chiefs and many warriors, all in war paint, carrying arms, and singing war songs. None but the chiefs were allowed to enter the fort, and here in the presence of Keokuk, Wapello, and other head chiefs, General Gaines told Black Hawk that he and his band must move west of the Mississippi River, and that if they did not go, he, Gaines, would move them by force. Gaines gave the Indians until the twentieth in which to move. Previous to this Black Hawk had held two interviews with the Prophet, a Winnebago living at his village where Prophetstown is now located. The Prophet claimed to have

had visions or dreams, and said that the white soldiers would do no one any harm; that their object was merely to frighten the Indians, and it was upon this information that Black Hawk acted.

#### GAINES ASKS AID FROM THE GOVERNOR.

After the council, General Gaines at once sent by special messenger the following letter to Governor Reynolds:

"Headquarters, Rock Island, June 5, 1831.

"John Reynolds, Governor of Illinois.

"Sir: I do myself the honor to report to Your Excellency the result of my conference with the chiefs and braves of the band of Sac Indians settled within the limits of your state near this place.

"I called their attention to the facts reported to me of their disorderly conduct towards the white inhabitants near them. They disavow any intention of hostility but at the same time adhere with stubborn pertinacity to their purpose of remaining on the Rock River land in question.

"I notified them of my determination to move them, peaceably if possible, but at all events to move them to their own side of the Mississippi River, pointing out to them the apparent impossibility of their living on lands purchased by the whites without constant disturbance. They contended that this part of their country had never been sold by them. I explained to them the different treaties of 1804, '16 and '25, and concluded with a positive assurance that they must move off, and that I must as soon as they are ready assist them with boats.

"I have this morning learned that they have invited the Prophet's band of Winnebagoes on Rock River, with some Pottawatomies and Kickapoos, to join them. If I find this to be true, I shall gladly avail myself of my present visit to see them well punished; and, therefore, I deem it to be the only safe measure now to be taken to request of Your Excellency the battalion of mounted



men which you did me the honor to say would co-operate with me. They will find at this post a supply of rations for the men, with some corn for their horses, together with a supply of powder and lead.

"I have deemed it expedient under all the circumstances of the case to invite the frontier inhabitants to bring their families to this post until the difference is over.

"I have the honor to be, with great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. GAINES.

"Major-General by Brevet, Commanding.

"P. S. Since writing the foregoing remarks, I have learned that the Winnebagoes and Pottawatomie Indians have actually been invited by the Sacs to join them. But the former evince no disposition to comply; and it is supposed by Colonel Gratiot, the agent, that none will join the Sacs, except, perhaps, some few of the Kickapoos. E. P. G."

This letter evidently pleased Governor Reynolds for he said: "I was very much rejoiced on receiving this letter, as it put my whole proceedings on a legal and constitutional footing, and the responsibility of the war was removed from me to the United States."

#### THE SETTLERS' AFFIDAVITS.

While at Fort Armstrong the settlers had prepared another petition, together with numerous affidavits, which they presented to General Gaines. The following is the substance of the depositions of sundry citizens of the Rock River settlement, taken before William Brasher, J. P., and Joel Wells, J. P., on the 10th of June, 1831.

"*First.* John Wells, John W. Spencer, Jonah H. Case, Rennah Wells, Samuel Wells, Benjamin F. Pike, Joseph Danforth and Moses Johnson, before Wm. Brazier, J. P., swear that the Sac Indians did through the last year repeatedly threaten to kill them for being on their ground, and acted in the most outrageous manner; threw down their fences,

burnt or destroyed their rails, turned horses into their cornfields and almost destroyed their crops, stole their potatoes, killed and ate their hogs, shot arrows into their cattle and put out their eyes, thereby rendering them useless to their owners, saying the land was theirs, and that they had not sold it. In April they ordered the deponents to leave their houses, and turned from fifty to one hundred horses into one man's wheat field, threatening that the fields should not be reaped, although said owners had purchased the land of the United States government. The Indians also leveled deadly weapons at the citizens, and on some occasions hurt some of the said citizens, for attempting to prevent the destruction of their property. Also that the Indians stole their horses, some of which were returned by the agent six or eight months after, and in a miserable condition; others were never heard of again. Nearly fifty Indians headed by their notorious war chief, all armed and equipped for war, came to the house of Rennah Wells, and ordered him to be off or they would kill him, which, for the safety of his family, he obeyed. *They then went to another house, rolled out a barrel of whiskey and destroyed it*, as well as committing many other outrages to the knowledge of the deponents.

"*Second.* John Wells, before Joel Wells, J. P., swore that on the 30th day of September, 1830, he saw two Sac Indians throwing down his fence, who said they were doing it for the purpose of going through, in which they persisted although forbidden by the owner, and when the owner attempted to prevent them, one of them made a pass at him with his fist, and drew his knife on him.

"*Third.* Rennah and Samuel Wells, before Joel Wells, J. P., swore that on the 29th of May a party of Sac Indians, calling themselves chiefs, with Black Hawk at their head, came to the house of Rennah Wells, near the mouth of Rock River, and said that he must let the squaws cultivate his field, which Wells

refusing, they became much displeased, and told him to go off; upon Wells' refusal they went away. That on the next day the same chiefs, with about fifty warriors, came, armed, and told Wells that he must move or they would cut the throats of himself and family, and making motions to that effect, upon which said Wells told them that he would take counsel and tell them at three o'clock the next day what would be his determination. They consented, and went away; at the appointed time they returned and told Wells that he must go off, which he accordingly did, leaving all his possessions to the Indians.

"*Fourth.* Nancy Thompson and Nancy Wells before W. J. Brasher, swore that in October, 1830, two Indians residing in the village forty or fifty miles above the mouth of Rock River, and called Sacs or Winnebagoes, came to the house of Rennah Wells and commenced chasing some sheep, as if they would kill them. Those Indians were ordered to desist, upon which they drew their knives and made at the woman, who being alarmed, called for assistance. Samuel Wells being sick in the house at the time, ran out with a pitchfork, and the Indians pursued no farther. London L. Case heard the alarm given, and joined. The Indians then returned to the river bank eighty or one hundred yards distant; when Case, thinking they were still in pursuit of the sheep, went to ascertain the truth, and coming near the Indians they wounded him severely in three places with a knife and tomahawk.

"*Fifth.* Joseph Danforth, before Joel Wells, J. P., swore that he saw Sacs at a fence belonging to John Wells, who forbid them going through, when they continued throwing down the fence. Wells attempted to prevent them, when one of the Indians struck him with his fist, and drew his knife. Danforth got a stick, and the Indians making several attempts toward Danforth, he (Danforth) knocked one of them down with his stick. The Indian rose several times and made at

Danforth with his knife, and finally deserted the ground, leaving his knife."

#### THE AGENT FEARS TROUBLE.

June 4, General Gaines wrote to Henry Gratiot, sub-Indian agent, to investigate the situation at the Sac village at once; and on the twelfth that gentleman sent the following reply:

"Rock Island, June 12, 1831.

"Sir: I have the honor to report to you that, agreeably to my intimation to you I visited the village of Sac Indians near this place yesterday for the purpose of persuading off the Winnebago Prophet and some young men of his band whom I knew had previously been there and, I believe, with an intention to support the Sac Indians. I found that the Prophet had just left there for his village, which is within my agency upon Rock River, and although he had previously promised that he would return home and remain there, I have reason to believe that his object is to get as many of his band and of the other bands of the Winnebagoes (who reside at Rock River, within my agency) as he can, for the purpose of joining the Sacs and of supporting them in their present pretensions.

"I have recently been at some of the principal villages of Winnebagoes within my agency, and have ascertained from unquestionable authority that, although they had been invited to join the Sacs, they had refused to do so. I think it will be prudent for me to follow the Prophet, to prevent him from influencing any of the Indians up the river to join him. Should I, however, find that any of the warriors have left before my arrival amongst them, I will (if you think it best) return immediately to this place, bringing with me three or four influential chiefs, who can be relied on and who will, with my assistance, I think, be able to control them.

"In my opinion there are at least 400 warriors at the Sac village which I visited

yesterday, apparently determined to defend themselves in their present position. On the receipt of your letter on the 4th inst., I immediately hastened to this place with a view to give you the most satisfactory information upon the subject of it and tender my services in any way you may think useful.

"I am, respectfully yours.

"HENRY GRATIOT, Sub-Agent, etc.  
"Major-General Gaines."

Hubbard, Goodridge	Wells, George
Henderson, Cyrus	Wells, Joel Sr.
Johnson, Moses	Wells, Joel, Jr.
Kinney, John W.	Wells, Huntington
Kinney, Samuel	Wells, John
Leek, Conrad	Wells, Samuel
Levitt, Thomas	Wells, Rinnah
McNeil, Henry	Wells, Asaph
Miller, George	Wells, Eri
McGee, Gentry	Wells, Ira

#### THE ROCK RIVER RANGERS.

At the suggestion of General Gaines the men and larger boys of the settlement formed themselves into a company, elected officers, and named themselves "Rock River Rangers," and tendered their services to General Gaines, who accepted the company of fifty-eight men, and mustered them into the service. No record of this company's enrollment has been found, it probably never having been forwarded to Washington. Judge Spencer in his "Reminiscences," gives June 5th as the date. The following is a roster of the company:

Captain: Benjamin F. Pike.

First Lieutenant: John W. Spencer.

Second Lieutenant: Griffith Aubury.

Sergeants: James Haskill, Leonard Bryant, Edward Corbin.

Corporals: Charles French, Benjamin Goble, Charles Case, Henry Benson.

Allen, Archibald	Noble, Amos C.
Brashar, William T.	Syms, Thomas
Bane, John	Syms, Robert
Bartlett, Michael	Sams, William F.
Been, Joseph	Smith, Martin W.
Case, Jonah H.	Stringfield, Sevier
Danforth, Joseph	Thompson, Joel
Davis, Thomas	Vandruff, Joshua
Dance, Russell	Vandruff, Henry
Frith, Isaiah	Vandruff, Samuel
Gardner, Thomas	Vannetta, Benjamin
Harlan, George W.	Vannetta, Gorham
Hultz, Uriah S.	Varner, Edward
Hubbard, Thomas	Wells, Levi

#### THE ILLINOIS SOLDIERS.

Governor Reynolds in defending his position in calling out the militia said: "If I did not act, and the inhabitants were murdered after being informed of their situation, I would be condemned from Dan to Beersheba; and if I levied by raising troops, when there was no necessity for it, I would also be responsible." Governor Reynolds knew that the settlers had applied to the Indian agent and the military officers of the United States and had obtained no relief, and he says: "I considered it my duty to call on the volunteers to move the Indians to the west side of the Mississippi." It was but seventeen years after the close of the war of 1812 and these same Saes and Foxes had fought the Americans in that war. There were many of the old soldiers still young enough to enlist and they inflamed the young men to appear against their old foe. The governor had extracts from the petitions sent him circulated throughout the counties from which he had asked for troops. Moreover, he made, as he says, "both private and public speeches to the masses," and urged the people and his friends to turn out for the defense of the frontier. He adds: "The warm feelings of the late election for governor had not yet died away, and my electioneering friends converted their electioneering fever into the military, which was a powerful lever in the crusade for Rock Island."

Although it was the most busy time in the year with the farmers some 1,600 responded

to the governor's call and appeared at Beardstown on or about the 10th of June. Some were armed with muskets, some with shot-guns and some with no firearms whatsoever, but all were mounted. The governor managed to purchase enough muskets from a Beardstown merchant for the remainder of the troops. These muskets were light pieces, made with brass barrels for the South American service, and answered the purpose. The governor appointed Joseph Duncan, then a member of Congress and afterwards governor of this state, brigadier general to take immediate command of the brigade, and Samuel Whiteside a major, to take command of a spy battalion.

This army left its encampment near Rushville for Rock Island June 15, the governor marching with the brigade. After a pleasant march the army encamped at Rockport, now Andalusia. Here there had been previously erected a small log cabin or stockade, which was used as headquarters. During the afternoon a steamboat arrived at the encampment, coming from Fort Armstrong, loaded with provisions. The camp at Rockport was laid out according to military practice, pickets were placed, as it was feared the Indians might make a night attack, and the utmost vigilance was observed. The night was a beautiful one and it passed off quietly without any disturbance.

#### GENERAL GAINES MAKES A DEMONSTRATION.

On the 18th of June, General Gaines sent from Fort Armstrong the steamboat Enterprise, carrying one company of soldiers and one cannon. The boat steamed up Rock River, and passed the Indian village, the object being to overawe and intimidate the Indians. Black Hawk said: "The water being shallow, the boat got around, which gave the whites some trouble. If they had asked for assistance, there was not a brave in my band who would not willingly have aided them." Judge John W. Spencer who was on

the boat says: "Strange to say, although a steamboat was seldom seen in those days, the Indians seemed not to take the least notice of the boat, not even looking at it, and even the women and children showed no signs of wonder or fear."

#### PREPARE TO ATTACK.

On the morning of June 20th, bright and early, General Duncan marched his army from Rockport to a position on Rock River opposite the Sac village. An attempt was made to ferry the troops across, but it proved too slow, and General Gaines being shown a ford by George S. Miller, the army marched across through the water to Vandruff's Island. General Gaines left Fort Armstrong on the steamboat Enterprise, which had been fortified, and which carried one company of regulars and several cannon. The Enterprise entered Rock River and steamed up stream until opposite the Sac village where it met General Duncan's army with which it was to co-operate. The other nine companies of regular, together with the Rock River Rangers, under command of Captain John Bliss, the then commandant of Fort Armstrong, marched from the fort to the Indian town.

Judge Spencer in his Reminiscences says: "Major Bliss formed our company of Rock River Rangers in an extended line of a half mile in front of the regulars, with one cannon in the rear, for our march for Rock River. We marched near where the road is now traveled until we reached General Rodman's land, then turning to the left until reaching the top of the bluff, taking the direction of Black Hawk's Watch Tower. On arriving there, we planted the cannon on the brow of the bluff and then commenced throwing grape and cannister into the bushes on Vandruff's Island." Vandruff's Island at this time was covered with bushes and vines so as to be impenetrable to the sight at a distance of twenty feet. The Enterprise was run to the lower point of the island and several



rounds of grape and cannister were shot into the bushes to see if any enemy was there. The spy battalion under Whiteside then formed a line of battle and swept the island, and it was then learned that the north bank of Rock River was so near and so high that the firing had no effect. General Duncan's army followed in the wake of Whiteside's spy battalion and before they got to the north side of the island the army was so jammed up and mixed together that no one knew where his company or regiment was. In the meantime Captain Bliss with the regulars and the Rock River Rangers had learned that it was impossible from that distance to distinguish Indians from regulars or volunteers, and that their shots were as likely to kill friend as foe. The Indian village now became exposed to view but no Indians were to be seen. The river, narrow but deep, lay between the army and the village, and the main part of Duncan's army remained on the island until scows were found in which they were ferried across."

Black Hawk says: "We crossed the river during the night and encamped some distance below Rock Island." He said he would have remained and been taken prisoner by the regulars but that he "was afraid of the multitude of palefaced militia, who were on horseback, as they were under no restraint of their chiefs."

#### THE BURNING OF SAC VILLAGE.

The Illinois militia had come to fight Indians and when they found the redmen gone, they became determined to be avenged upon something. Shortly after they reached the Indian village it began to rain and soon the rain descended in torrents, and early the morning of the 26th, the troops commenced setting fire to the houses. Soon the frail dwellings were wrapped in flames and in less than one hour's time almost every wigwam in the village was in ashes. Governor Ford who was present said: "And thus perished an ancient village which had once been the

delightful home of six or seven thousand Indians; where generation after generation had been born, had died and been buried; where the old men had taught wisdom to the young; whence the Indian youth had often gone out in parties to hunt or to war, and returned in triumph to dance around the spoils of the forest, or the scalps of their enemies; and where the dark-eyed Indian maidens by their presence and charms, had made it a scene of delightful enchantment to many an admiring warrior."

#### THE STAMPEDE.

The army spent the night at the Indian town, the regulars, however, going back to the fort. On the morning of June 26, General Duncan marched his army to the Mississippi River and encamped on the exact spot where the City of Rock Island is now located, the camp extending from where the Rock Island Railway Company's freight depot is now located down to where the present ferry dock stands.

The horses, some sixteen hundred, were pastured in the bend of the river below and a strong guard placed around them. During the second night a steamboat came up the river and when opposite where the horses were kept commenced blowing its whistle. This unnatural noise at night so frightened the animals that they broke loose and stampeded, and it was with difficulty that their guards escaped being trampled to death. The frightened animals ran out on the prairies, up and down both river banks, and it was several days before they could be recovered, some few however being lost.

#### BLACK HAWK FORCED TO SIGN THE TREATY.

General Gaines on the 27th sent a notice to Black Hawk that if he did not come to Fort Armstrong he would come after him with his army, a few of the Indians appeared but not Black Hawk. Gaines then sent a peremptory order to the chief and in a few

days Black Hawk and his chiefs and headmen to the number of twenty-eight appeared at Fort Armstrong, and on June 30th, 1831, a new treaty was signed by which the British band of Sacs again agreed to make their homes on the west side of the Mississippi and never to cross such river, except with the consent of the President of the United States or of the Governor of Illinois. Black Hawk signed this treaty and then for the first time ratified, against his will, the treaty of 1804. This treaty was signed by General Gaines and Governor Reynolds for the United States, and by Black Hawk and twenty-seven chiefs and warriors for the Sacs and Foxes. The volunteer army was not satisfied with the result of this campaign and called the treaty a "Corn Treaty" because General Gaines had given to the destitute Indians corn to keep them from starving. The army was disbanded on July 2d, and the men returned to their homes. Not a man was injured or killed, either by accident or by the Indians; nor did any die of disease, and strange to say none ever applied for a pension. This ended the first Black Hawk campaign.

For a long time after the signing of this treaty there was considerable discussion and much feeling over the question whether Generals Gaines and Duncan knew that Black Hawk and his Indians had deserted their village on the night of the 19th of June. Thomas Ford, afterwards Governor of Illinois, who was a militia volunteer and marched ahead with the spies, said:

"Gaines and Duncan had reason to believe before the commencement of the march from the camp on the Mississippi, that the Indians had departed from their village; that measures had been taken to ascertain the fact before the volunteers crossed to Vandruff's Island; General Duncan, in company with the advanced guard, following the spies, preceded the main army in crossing, and that this will account for the want of order and confusion in the march of the troops." When the

militia arrived opposite the Sac village the greatest confusion reigned in their midst. George S. Miller, a resident of this county, acted as guide, and when it became known that the Indians were not in the village, General Duncan began to reprimand Miller for not letting him know that the main river was on the north side of Vandruff's Island. Miller cursed him to his face at the head of his troops for refusing his services as a guide when offered the night before, and also censured him for not giving information which had been offered him, which inclines me to the belief that both Generals Gaines and Duncan knew that the Indians had departed.

As witnesses to this treaty we find the names of two Rock Island settlers, Joseph Danforth and Benjamin F. Pike.

#### THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

Black Hawk with his band now removed to Iowa near the mouth of the Des Moines River, at the site of the abandoned Fort Madison. Neapope, second in command, took a trip to Malden, Canada, and upon his return in the fall of 1831, told Black Hawk that he would receive assistance from the British.

The Prophet, whose village on Rock River was where Prophetstown, Illinois, now is, and who had great influence over Black Hawk, also sent word that the Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawatomies and Winnebagoes would be with him and would render aid. Black Hawk after receiving these messages said: "We are to be happy once more," Black Hawk now directed all his efforts to getting together his warriors in anticipation of his march to his old village and its occupation, and prepared for an attack by the Americans should they again undertake to drive him away. The army through spies was kept informed of Black Hawk's actions, and early in April, Keokuk sent to Fort Armstrong a warning that Black Hawk was about to commence his march to reoccupy his old village.

Again messengers were sent out from Fort Armstrong to warn the settlers of their danger and advising them to seek shelter at once, either at Fort Armstrong or in the stockade which had been erected around the trading store of Davenport and Farnham. The most daring and persevering of these messengers was Judge John W. Spencer. On foot he traveled as far as Dixon, going from cabin to cabin sounding the alarm and advising the settlers to seek protection. We cannot realize today the wild excitement and dread despair the news of an Indian uprising caused among our pioneer settlers. Few if any had horses to use in carrying their families and goods. Oxen were the beasts of burden and the settlers were obliged to take what little they could and carry it on their persons. John Wakefield, in his history of the Black Hawk War written in 1834, gives an amusing sketch of the excitement attendant upon the news of the expected Indian attack. He says: "In the eastern part of the state the people were as much alarmed as in the northwest. During one of the many false alarms that 'The Indians are coming' a family was living near the Iroquois River that had no horses but a large family of small children. The father and mother each took a child and the rest were directed to follow on foot as fast as possible. The eldest daughter also carried one of the children that was not able to keep up. They fled to the river where they had to cross. The father had to carry over all the children at different times as the stream was high and so rapid the mother and daughter could not stem the current with such a burden. When they all, as they thought, had got over they started when the cry of poor little Susan was heard on the opposite bank asking if they were not going to take her with them. The frightened father again prepared to plunge into the strong current for his child, when the mother, seeing it, cried out: 'Never mind Susan! We have succeeded in getting ten over which is more

than we expected at first and we can better spare Susan than you, my dear.' So poor Susan, who was only about four years old, was left to the mercy of the frightful savages." But little Susan came off unhurt, as one of the neighbors who was out hunting came along and took charge of her.

#### THE TURKEY SCARE.

All the settlers in this vicinity had come to Fort Armstrong and taken quarters there or in the stockade, both of which were overcrowded. After the first scare, the settlers wanted to go back to their farms and do their spring planting. Captain Bliss, who commanded at the fort, yielded to their request, and arranged with them a signal of alarm in case they or any of them should be attacked, or were in imminent danger of an attack, which signal was that they should "fire off a gun." When such gun was fired, every one should flee to the Island. April 7, Joshua Vandruff and Hackley Samms, while crossing Vandruff Island, saw a flock of wild turkeys. They could not resist the temptation and, creeping within range, fired their guns at the flock, each man bringing down his bird. The noise of the two guns could be heard all over the settlement and it caused the greatest excitement, filling the hearts of the settlers with terror. Mothers caught their children and fled towards the fort. Those who had horses and were plowing, hastily, unhitched the animals, loaded their families upon the horses and started towards the fort. It is said some of the settlers fled pell-mell, leaving their families to take care of themselves. Vandruff and Samms soon realized the mistake, especially Joshua, when he encountered his wife and their ten children, running towards the fort. When the settlers reached the Mississippi they crowded the few skiffs tied to the shore and some came near being drowned. Captain Bliss had heard the gun-shots and hastily called together a company of his regulars and

started to meet the Indians, while Captain Phil Kearney, who was left in command of the fort, began preparing it for a siege. Bliss and his men got nearly to Rock River when they met Vandruff and Samms running after the fleeing settlers trying to explain the mistake. When these two told the captain "how it happened," it is said the air became impregnated with sulphur, so loud and vehemently did that warrior swear. For many years afterwards, the "turkey scare" was a tender spot with Vandruff and Samms.

#### BLACK HAWK STARTS.

The 6th of April, 1832, Black Hawk, with about 1,000 Indians, including warriors, women, old men and children, together with all their possessions, crossed the Mississippi at Yellow Banks (Oquawka) and leisurely proceeded up the east bank of the river to Rock River and thence up that river opposite to his old village where he camped the night of April 12. The next morning he started for the Prophet's village with the intention, as he said, "to make corn." There is and always has been a question whether Black Hawk, when he crossed the Mississippi River and invaded Illinois in 1832, intended attacking the Americans, or merely again occupying his village with the intention of resisting forcible removal, or whether he intended going to the Prophet's village merely to raise a crop. If he wanted merely to raise a crop, he could have done that as easily at the mouth of the Des Moines River as at Prophetstown. From Black Hawk's biography we learn that the trip to Prophetstown was part of his plan to again get control of the site of his ancient village and his cornfields. He tells us that while at the Des Moines "I concluded that I had better keep my band together, and recruit as many more as possible, so that I would be prepared to make the attempt to rescue my village in the spring." He then, as he says, "tried to recruit braves from Keokuk's band," and "requested my people

to rendezvous at that place, and sent out soldiers to bring in the warriors, and stationed my sentinels in a position to prevent any from moving up until all were ready."

The taking with him his women, children and old men would indicate that he did not on that trip contemplate war, as no Indian war party ever carries with it the women or children. Black Hawk undoubtedly intended taking his women and children to the Prophet's village, there to leave them to make a crop, and during the summer continue his recruiting and possibly in the fall occupy his village. For had he intended going to war at once he would have stopped at his village and there made his defense.

At Yellowbanks the Prophet met Black Hawk, and made a talk to his braves, telling them "that as long as they were peaceable, the Americans would not dare molest them. That we were not yet ready to act otherwise. We must wait until we ascend Rock River and receive our reinforcements and we will then be able to withstand an army."

#### GENERAL ATKINSON COMES TO FORT ARMSTRONG.

On June 31, 1831, a war party of nearly 100 Sacs and Foxes had attacked a camp of Menominees situated about one half a mile about Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien and killed twenty-five. Black Hawk says the killed were Sioux and Menominees. Between the former and the Sacs and Foxes there had always been a bitter and hostile feeling. April 1, 1832, General Henry Atkinson, then commanding Jefferson Barracks at St. Louis, received orders to proceed up the Mississippi and demand from the Sacs and Foxes the principals engaged in the murder of the Menominees. Atkinson left St. Louis April 8, with six companies of the Sixth Regiment, 220 men accompanying the expedition. Albert Sidney Johnson, afterwards a Confederate general, was a second lieutenant in this command.



April 10, Atkinson's army reached the Des Moines Rapids, where they were informed that Black Hawk and his warriors were marching up the river. The army now hastened to Fort Armstrong, arriving there the night of the 12th. The 13th, General Atkinson called the Indians then in that vicinity to the fort. Among those who came were Keokuk and Wapello. Atkinson demanded the murderers of the Menominees and these two disclaimed any part in that affair. General Atkinson then started for Fort Crawford and also sent out messengers to warn the settlers of Black Hawk's coming. On the 19th of the month, General Atkinson returned to Fort Armstrong. Accompanying him was Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterwards President of the United States, and two companies of the First Infantry. Before leaving Fort Armstrong, General Atkinson had sent a letter to Governor Reynolds asking for state aid.

After Black Hawk passed his old village, General Atkinson sent Captain Phil Kearney up Rock River after him, with orders for Black Hawk to return and recross the Mississippi, which order Black Hawk refused to obey, claiming his mission was a peaceful one.

The news that Black Hawk and his warriors were again marching up Rock River alarmed the whole northern frontier and the Governor daily received messages asking protection. George Davenport, the Indian trader on Rock Island, had before General Gaines' arrival written him: "From every information I have received, I am of the opinion that the intention of the British band of Sac Indians is to commit depredations on the inhabitants of the frontier."

#### THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

April 16, Governor Reynolds received General Atkinson's letter, asking the assistance of the state militia. Promptly on the same day the Governor issued the following proclamation:

"TO THE MILITIA OF THE NORTHWESTERN SECTION OF THE STATE.

"Fellow Citizens:

"Your country requires your services. The Indians have assumed a hostile attitude and have invaded the state in violation of the treaty of last summer. The British band of Sacs and other hostile Indians, headed by Black Hawk, are in possession of the Rock River country to the great terror of the frontier inhabitants. I consider the settlers on the frontier to be in imminent danger. I am in possession of the above information, from gentlemen of respectable standing, and also from General Atkinson, whose character stands high with all classes. In possession of the above facts and information, I have not hesitated as to the course I should pursue. No citizen ought to remain inactive when his country is invaded, and the helpless part of the community are in danger. I have called out a strong detachment of militia to rendezvous at Beardstown on the 22d inst. Provisions for the men and food for the horses will be furnished in abundance.

I hope my countrymen will realize my expectations and offer their services, as heretofore, with promptitude and cheerfulness, in defence of their country."

The season was wet and backward, and the farmers had been delayed in their work but, as in the year 1831, volunteers were eager and willing to offer their services, many of the most influential men in the state enlisting and many who neither had horses or could procure them, marching on foot.

April 27, the militia left Rushville and marched to Yellow Banks (Oquawka) from whence they marched up the Mississippi to the mouth of Rock River which they reached May 7. General Atkinson mustered the troops into the service of the United States, and May 9 they commenced their march up Rock River. Before marching Governor Reynolds engaged the services of Thomas Kinney, a Rock Island settler as a guide, Mr. Kinney

being able to understand a little of the Sac language. In the march up the river, General Whiteside with the Illinois Volunteers marched on the east side. While General Atkinson, with four hundred regulars came, some on the west side and some in boats with the supplies. With Atkinson was Colonel Zachary Taylor.

#### A ROCK ISLAND COMPANY.

It seems the martial spirit of the citizens of Rock Island County was not stilled or satisfied by the march of the Rock River Rangers in 1831 from Fort Armstrong to the Sac village, for in 1832 we find one company enrolled in the service where every member save one was from Rock Island County, that one being a brother of the captain, and he came from Adams County to enlist under his brother. The following is from the rolls as corrected and now on file in the War Department at Washington.

They all resided in Rock Island County, with the exception of Thomas Kenney, who was from Adams County.

Captain, John W. Kenney, enrolled May 20, 1832; First Lieutenant, Joseph Danforth, enrolled May 20; Privates, Thomas Davis, enrolled May 20; Manly Danforth, enrolled July 1; Samuel Danforth, enrolled May 20; Samuel Kenney, enrolled May 20, on furlough; Thomas Kenney, enrolled June 12; Gentry McGee, enrolled May 20; Henry McNeal, enrolled May 20; Neel McNeal, enrolled July 1; James Maskal, enrolled May 20; Martin Smith, enrolled May 20; William H. Samms, enrolled July 1; Joel Thompson, enrolled May 20; William Thompson, enrolled May 20; Ira Wells, enrolled May 20; Eri Wells, enrolled May 20; Asaph Wells, enrolled May 20; Nelson Wells, enrolled May 20; Rannah Wells enrolled May 20; Jeol Wells, Jr., enrolled May 20; Joel Wells, Sr., enrolled May 20; Luke Wells, Sr., enrolled May 20.

After being received into the United States service at Fort Armstrong, this company was

assigned to Colonel Moore's regiment and marched up Rock River to Dixon, where it was assigned to an odd mounted battalion, commanded by Major Samuel Bogart, and was ordered to do guard duty on the frontier. It was mustered out September 4, 1832, at Macomb.

The companies composing this odd battalion were: Captains Peter Butter's of Warren County, John W. Kenney's of Rock Island County, James White of Hancock County, John Sain's of Fulton County, William McMurry's of Knox County and Asel F. Ball's of Fulton County. It is impossible to learn just what duty the battalion did to which the Rock Island company was assigned. Reynolds in "My Own Times" says: "On the 12th of June I ordered a battalion to be organized and to select their officers, to guard the frontiers between the Mississippi and Peoria on the north of Illinois River. Samuel Bogart was elected major of the battalion,"

From another authority, I learn that the company did guard duty on the frontier, drew its rations daily, ate heartily, played euchre and received the remunerative sum of 86 cents per day for each man and his horse. Samuel Bogart, the major of the odd battalion to which Kenney's company was attached, was before enlistment a merchant in McDonough County.

#### OTHER ROCK ISLAND SOLDIERS.

Rock Island County furnished more soldiers than those given in Captain John W. Kenney's company. Yet, I have been able to trace but few owing to the fact that the rolls are by no means complete. A large number joined the state militia and were never sworn into the United States service, consequently no record was kept and their names will remain forever unknown. I have frequently heard certain of our old citizens claim to have been in the Black Hawk War, and have made diligent search for their names. I give in this sketch only such names as ap-

## HISTORIC ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

appear on record in the reports of the war department.

All enlistments were from twenty to thirty days and a great many enlisted in another company on the same day that their term of enlistment in one company expired.

### ROSWELL H. SPENCER.

Roswell H. Spencer was a brother of Judge John W. Spencer and was one of the very early settlers. He seems to have been an ardent patriot, having three enlistments to his credit, serving out each enlistment, and upon his term of service expiring again enlisting in a new company. He enlisted first in Captain Thomas Carlin's company which belonged to what was known as the spy battalion. He was enrolled May 10 at Rock Island, and mustered out May 27 at the mouth of the Fox River. He again enlisted May 27, 1832, in Captain A. W. Snyder's company and was mustered out of service June 21, at Dixon's Ferry on Rock River. The same day we find him again enlisting in Captain Jacob M. Early's company and he was mustered out on White Water River on Rock River, July 10, 1832, by order of Brigadier General Atkinson, United States Army. This was one of the companies in which Abraham Lincoln served as a private.

### JAMES KNETSAR.

James Knetsar, who for many years lived in Moline and who died there in the eighties, was a member of Captain David Powell's company of mounted volunteers. He enlisted in White County on June 16th, and was mustered out of the service on August 2d at Dixon's Ferry (Dixon). The original records give his name as "James Netson." but they have since been corrected. Mr. Knetsar lost his horse, saddle and bridle in the service.

### REDDISH, THE TUNNELS AND EAMES.

In Captain Thomas Carlin's company, we find enrolled with Roswell H. Spencer, John Reddish, who enlisted at Rock Island May

10; Luther Tunnel and William Tunnel, who were also enrolled that day. The records show that the night of May 22, Luther Tunnel lost his horse, account "affright of horses," there being a stampede that night. This company was part of an odd battalion of spies, commanded by Major D. Henry of the brigade of mounted volunteers commanded by Brigadier General Samuel Whiteside. It was mustered out of the service of the United States at the mouth of Fox River on the Illinois River May 27, 1832, and as the company was originally mustered in at Carrolton, the men were discharged two hundred and thirty miles from the place of their enrollment.

John Reddish was also in Captain Samuel Smith's company, serving from May 27 to June 15.

Charles Eames, who was sheriff of this county from 1837 to 1839, was a member of Captain Enoch Duncan's company of mounted riflemen, commanded by Colonel H. Dodge. He enlisted in company with his brother May 19, 1832. He was mustered out of the service September 14.

### THE WELLS FAMILY.

The Wells family seems to have been a family of fighters. We find eleven of them enrolled in the company of Rock River Rangers in 1831, and in 1832 we find eight of these enrolled in Captain Kinney's company. Lucius Wells and John Wells were with Spencer in Captain A. W. Snyder's company and were present and participated in the battle of Kellogg's Grove. Samuel Wells was also a member of Captain Seth Pratt's company of Illinois Volunteer Militia, stationed at Fort Armstrong, in the service of the United States from April 21 to June 3, 1832.

### CAPTAIN SETH PRATT'S COMPANY.

I find a company of Illinois Volunteer Militia was stationed at Fort Armstrong and was in the service of the United States from

April 21 to June 3, 1832, when it was mustered out. This company did garrison duty. The records say it was composed of men from Rock Island and adjacent counties, but I have been unable to place but one, he being Samuel Wells. The roster of the company is:

Captain: Seth Pratt.

Lieutenants: John M. Crabtree, Joseph Leister.

Sergeants: Simpson Stewart, William B. Sisk, Elihu Sparks, Abraham Crabtree.

Corporals: James Stockson, George Yates, James Keller, James Curry, Thomas Burton.

Fifer: James Carr.

Privates: Gordon Acton, Nathan Bradbury, Henry Brantly, C. Girdwell, Isaac Booth, Daniel Brock, Amos Bradley, John Bradshaw, John M. Bohvare, Henry Castlebury, Stephen L. Cooper, John Davis, Samuel Smith, Henry Ford, William Foster, Isaac Gullihier, Parnell Hamilton, Harrison Hunly, William Hopper, Alfred Jackson, Jonathan Leighton, Nicholas Long, James M. Low, Iredell Lawrence, Martin Langston, Samuel Wells, Larkin B. Langston, John Letcher, Henry Melton, Francis McConnell, Frederick McDaniel, James New, Wm. C. Overstreet, John Pervine, William Pointer, Jonathan Russ, Andrews Smothers, Isaac Schmick.

Benjamin Gobel in his reminiscences speaks of joining a company and doing guard duty at the fort, but I do not find his name on the roster.

At the commencement of hostilities, Governor Reynolds of Illinois, appointed George Davenport, the Indian trader on the island, one of the quartermasters, his commission giving him the rank of colonel, by which title he was afterwards known.

The volunteer army after a hard march, reached Dixon on the evening of May 10th, ahead of the regulars. Black Hawk and his Indians had in the meantime reached the Prophet's village and had sent word to the Pottawatomies asking them to meet him in a council on Sycamore Creek, (since called

Stillman's Run.) The Pottawatomies were divided. Shaubena, their highest chief, favored the whites, but Big Foot and Mike Girty, a half-breed, were for war. When Whitesides arrived at Dixon, he found there ahead of him two independent battalions, in all three hundred and forty-one men. The one was commanded by Major Isaiah Stillman, the other by Major David Bailey. These commands objected to joining the main army except as rangers, they said they had come to "fight Indians" and believed if they were allowed, they could go out and in a few days end the trouble. After much persuasion, General Whitesides allowed Majors Stillman's and Bailey's battalions to go on a scouting expedition, and on the morning of May 13, they set out. In the afternoon of the 14th, they pitched camp about three miles from Sycamore Creek. Black Hawk with forty of his Indians were but three miles from the camp of the whites. The Indians were preparing a dog feast for the visiting Pottawatomies. Learning that a body of white soldiers were making camp, Black Hawk sent three of his young men with a white flag to talk with the whites, and to arrange for a council with White Beaver (Atkinson). When the Indian party was still a mile away, they were perceived by the volunteers and almost the whole camp rushed out and captured the Indian envoys, and hurried them into camp. Black Hawk had sent five other Indians to follow those bearing a white flag, to watch and see how the others were received. When the whites perceived the second party, about twenty of the mounted volunteers started in pursuit and killed two of the Indians, the other three escaped and returned to where Black Hawk and his thirty-five braves were in camp. When Black Hawk heard of how his flag bearers had been treated he prepared his braves to meet the whites, who were now all in hot pursuit. The Indians withdrew behind a fringe of bushes and when the volunteers came within close range the Indians



fired a volley. The volunteers fled, pursued by part of the Indians. Night fall ended the chase. Stillman's and Bailey's brigade kept up the flight until they reached Dixon, twenty-five miles away. Many of them never went to Dixon, but started for their own homes. The report went out that the whites had been defeated by Black Hawk and about two thousand warriors. The number of whites killed was eleven. While the number of Indians was three. One of the latter being one of the flag bearers, the two others being of the party of five that had followed the flag bearers.

It has been said that Stillman's and Bailey's men were under the influence of liquor, that they had taken with them several barrels of whiskey, and they were indulging freely in drink just before the Indian flag bearers appeared on the scene.

The firing on the flag of truce was, to say the least, dishonorable treatment. Had the whites received the truce bearers in the proper manner, there is no doubt that such arrangements would have been made that hostilities would never have commenced, and Black Hawk and his Indians would have returned to the west bank of the Mississippi.

Black Hawk and his band were almost destitute of provisions and ammunition, and their capture of Stillman's stores, highly elated them. Black Hawk now sent his women and children by way of the Kishwaukee to the swamps of Lake Koshkonong near the headwaters of Rock River. The Winnebagoes acting as guides. Here his party was recruited by Winnebagoes and Pottawatomies.

On the day of Stillman's defeat, General Whiteside with fourteen hundred men proceeded to the scene of battle and buried the dead. The State of Illinois has at Stillman Valley, erected a monument in honor of those killed in this engagement. On the 19th, General Atkinson and the entire army moved up the Rock River, leaving Stillman and

Bailey, and their brigades at Dixon. Atkinson soon however, returned to Dixon leaving General Whiteside with his volunteers to follow Black Hawk's trail. The volunteers now began to object to going farther, claiming that they were not compelled to serve in Michigan territory. They also claimed to having enlisted for one month, and that their time of enlistments had expired. After several days the officers determined to abandon their search for Black Hawk and they turned about and marched south to Ottawa, where on the 27th and 28th days of May, they were mustered out of the service.

On the 22d day of May, a party of thirty Pottawatomies and three Sacs, under Girty killed fifteen men, women and children at the Davis farm on Indian Creek, twelve miles north of Ottawa. Sylvia and Rachel, two daughters of William Hall, were taken captive and carried by the Indians to their camp on Lake Koshkonong. Afterwards, White Crow, a Winnebago chief, who had been sent to their rescue by Henry Gratiot, agent for the Winnebagoes, succeeded in purchasing them and delivered the girls to their relatives. At the time of the mustering out at Ottawa, Governor Reynolds called for at least two thousand men to serve during the war, and General Winfield Scott started from Fortress Monroe on the sea board with one thousand regulars. In the meantime three hundred mounted volunteers under Colonels Frye and Henry agreed to remain in the field to protect the frontier. Abraham Lincoln was among this number. He, having re-enlisted May 27, as a private. Black Hawk now divided his people into several parties and made forays against the whites.

On June 14th, a party of eleven Sacs killed five white men at Spafford farm on the Peckatonica River. Colonel Dodge with twenty-nine men followed them and the next day killed eleven, although he had three killed and one wounded in his own party.

On June 24th, Black Hawk in command of

a party of braves made an attack on Apple River Fort, fourteen miles east of Galena. After an hour's siege, the Indians after destroying the neighboring cabins, withdrew.

On June 25th, the same party attacked Major Dements' spy battalion, a hundred and fifty strong, at Kellogg's Grove. General Posey arrived in time with a detachment of volunteers for their relief. The Indians lost fifteen. The whites' loss was five. Skirmishes were had at Plum River Fort, Burr Oak Grove, Sinsiniwa Mound, and Blue Mounds.

On June 15th, the new troops met at Fort Wilburn at Peru, their aggregate strength was about three thousand and twenty men, making the entire army in the field about four thousand effective men. The army now under General Atkinson, marched up the east bank of Rock River. White Crow offered to conduct our army to Black Hawk's camp, and that wily savage kept the whites on a goose chase for several days trying to entrap them. Black Hawk in the meantime, had started westward to the Wisconsin River, and on the evening of July 21st, the Indians were overtaken on the bluffs of the Wisconsin where a decisive battle was fought in which General Henry commanded the American forces. This army charged the enemy and drove them from position after position with great loss, until sundown. This was the first important victory of the whites in this campaign. In the morning it was learned that the Indians were heading towards the Mississippi River and had left one hundred and sixty-eight dead on the field, twenty-five more being found next day along the trail. General Henry having lost but one man killed, and eight wounded.

On the morning of August 2d, the army reached the bluffs of the Mississippi. The Indians had reached the river and were making active preparations to cross. At this time, Captain Throckmorton commanding the steamer Warrior, arrived at the spot.

The Indians displayed a white flag. Throckmorton commanded them to come on board. They replied that they could not, because they had no boats. Upon this Throckmorton fired his six-pounder cannon loaded with canister into the Indians, killing twenty-three women and children. General Atkinson now came upon the scene, and at the mouth of the Bad Axe, attacked the Indian encampment. The Indians were completely routed, suffering a loss of one hundred and fifty killed, besides many drowned in their attempt to cross the river. The American loss was but seventeen. General Atkinson with the captured Indians, and about fifty women and children, went to Prairie du Chien. There on August 7th, General Scott with nine companies of infantry from Fortress Monroe, arrived and assumed command. The volunteers now returned to Dixon and were discharged, on the 17th day of August. Black Hawk, who had started back, was captured by some treacherous Winnebagoes and on the 27th day of August was delivered a captive to the whites at Prairie du Chien. He was kept that winter at Jefferson Barracks and in April, 1833, was sent as a prisoner to Fortress Monroe where he was confined until June 4, when he was discharged. After visiting the principal cities in the east, he returned west, locating on a small reservation on the Des Moines River in Davis County, Iowa, where he died October 3, 1838. The following year his remains were stolen, and in the spring of 1840 Governor Lucas succeeded in recovering them and caused the skeleton to be delivered at the then capitol at Burlington. When the capitol was removed to Iowa City, the remains were taken there. January 16, 1855, they were destroyed by fire.

The final treaty was concluded September 21, 1832. The treaty says: "Concluded at Fort Armstrong," but in consequence of cholera then raging at the fort, the treaty was held on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi now the State of Iowa.

Among the witnesses to this treaty were Antoine LeClaire, interpreter, Benjamin F. Pike, John W. Spencer and George Davenport, assistant quarter master general Illinois Militia.

Governor Reynolds in referring to this final engagement says: "Although the warriors fought with the courage and valor of desperation, yet the conflict resembled more a carnage than a regular battle." Another noted authority calls it "a dishonorable chapter in the history of the borders." Out of the band of nearly one thousand Indians men, women and children who crossed the Mississippi at Yellow Banks in April, not more than one hundred and fifty lived to tell the story. The American loss in this war was about two hundred and fifty. The financial cost to the government and the State of Illinois was nearly \$2,000,000.

#### ROCK ISLAND SETTLERS IN 1832.

The following is a list of settlers of this county, as complete as I have been able to make from the data that I have found, in the spring of 1832. Just previous to the breaking out of the war in 1832, there was quite an increase of settlers, many of whom left. Some stayed during the war and then left and I have not been able to learn their names.

Aubury, Griffith	Kinney, Samuel
Allen, Archibald	Kinney, Thomas
Bain, John L.	Kent, Erastus
Barrel, John	Lovitt, Thomas
Bartlett, Michael	McCoy, Joseph
Burner, Edward	McNeil, Henry
Brasher, William T.	Miller, George V.
Benson, Henry	McGee, Gentry
Ben, Joseph	McNeil, Neel
Bryant, Leonard	Maskal, James
Case, Jonah H.	Noble, Ames C.
Case, Loudon, Sr.	Pence, Judge
Case, Loudon, Jr.	Pike, Benjamin
Case, Charles H.	Reddish, John
Cook, Horace	Syms, Thomas
Clark, B. W.	Syms, Robert

Corbin, Edward	Sams, William F.
Carr, William	Smith, Martin W.
Culver, Martin	Stringfield, Sevier
Danforth, Manly	Smart, Josiah
Danforth, Joseph	Sampson, H.
Davis, Thomas	Spencer, John W.
Dance, Russel	Spencer, Roswell H.
Davenport, George	Thompson, William
Davidson, Thomas	Thompson, Joel
Frith, Isaiah	Tunnell, Luther
French, Charles	Tunnell, William
Farnham, Russel	Vandruff, Joshua
Gardiner, Thomas	Vandruff, Henry
Goble, Benjamin	Vandruff, Samuel
Gouquy, Antoine	Vanetta, Benjamin
Graft, John	Vanetta, Gorham
Haskill, James	Vorner, Edward
Harlan, George W.	Wells, Levi
Hultz, Uriah S.	Wells, George
Hubbard, Thomas	Wells, Joel, Sr.
Hubbard, Goodridge	Wells, Joel, Jr.
Henderson, Cyrus	Wells, Huntington
Hail, David B.	Wells, John
Henry, William	Wells, Samuel
Heans, William	Wells, Rinnah
Hulls, M. S.	Wells, Asaph
Haney, ———	Wells, Eri
Johnson, Moses	Wells, Ira
Kinney, John W.	Wells, Nelson
	Wells, Lucius

The Kinneys above mentioned are the same whose names in the roster of the war department are given as Kenney.

#### INCIDENTS CONCERNING FORT ARMSTRONG.

About the time the fort was completed the Indians began crossing to the island and would watch the soldiers in its construction. They would often sing and go through some of their dances to amuse the soldiers, and the latter began to think that the Indians were peaceful. The Hon. Bailey Davenport described an incident during this time that shows that the Indians had not become reconciled to the erecting of the fort. He said: "One day a small party came over to

dance, and after the dance the colonel in command gave them presents. In a few days after, and while a large number of soldiers were out cutting timber, a large party of warriors, headed by the Ne-ka-le-quat, came over in canoes and landed on the north side of the island, and danced up to the entrance of the encampment, and wanted to enter and dance in front of the commander's tent. About the same time a large party of warriors was discovered approaching over the ridge from the south side of the island, headed by Keokuk. The colonel immediately ordered the bugle sounded to recall the soldiers from the woods, and had all under arms (about six hundred) and the cannon run out in front of the entrance, ready to fire. The Indians were ordered not to approach any nearer. The colonel, taking the alarm before Keokuk's party got near enough to rush in, saved the encampment from surprise and massacre."

#### THE POWDER PLOT.

Be it truth or fiction there is connected with the history of Fort Armstrong an incident that to my mind possesses more reasons in favor of its being fact than fiction.

After the Black Hawk War, some soldiers happening to enter the cave in "Rock Island Arsenal," found three kegs of powder each attached to a fuse. No one seemed to know how these things had come there, but after the war some Indians had said that Black Hawk when he marched up Rock River in April, 1832, stopped overnight at his old village, and during the night of April 12 he, with over two hundred braves, had gone to the island, crossing at the ford between Rock Island and Moline, remaining there nearly all night. It was said his intention was to see if he could not capture the fort. Black Hawk, in his autobiography, does not mention this incident, the reason being that his attempt to blow up the fort proved a failure. It is a fact that Black Hawk was on the island that night. Benjamin F. Pike, the captain

of the Rock River Rangers in 1831, and afterwards sheriff to this county, together with two companions, had been selected to do picket and scout duty that night. They took their place near the ford, and some time near midnight saw Black Hawk and his braves cross the slough to the island. They at once ran to the fort and to the stockade and gave the warning.

The garrison at this time was commanded by Captain Bliss who had with him only two companies of infantry, partly full, not over eighty men. The stockade around Colonel Davenport's store was filled with settlers and their families and was crowded to its utmost capacity. By an oversight the only well on the premises had not been enclosed in the stockade. Dreading fire from the Indians' fire arrows, every bucket, tub and barrel was hastily filled with water and the anxious settlers momentarily awaited the attack. An old swivel had been brought up from the fort and this was loaded to the brim and placed in front of the gate, where Sergeant Hanchett of the garrison, with a smoldering fire by his side, stood ready to fire it off at the first approach of the enemy. The night was one of terror to the settlers; a drifting rain and pelting hail storm had set in, and the occasional claps of thunder and flashes of lightning but added new alarm to the already frightened women and children. At about 2 o'clock in the morning the firing of cannon was heard from the direction of the fort and those in the stockade believed the attack had commenced, but they were soon apprized that the firing was from the cannon on board the steamer Chieftain, which brought General Atkinson and his regulars from St. Louis.

It is said that when the people at the stockade heard the firing of cannon and the shouts of the garrison welcoming the reinforcement, they believed it the shouts of triumph of the Indians at the capture of the fort, and Elder Kinney of Rapids City, a devout Presbyterian



advised them all to "unite in an appeal to God as their only hope of safety;" whereupon Antoine Gouquy, Colonel Davenport's French servant, said, "Ze prayer he be good for ze vimmin an ze childer, but he be not wort one cent to fight ze Injins. Wattair, he be bet-fair zan ze prayer."

Black Hawk had been with the British so much that he well knew the use of gunpowder. He was in the attack on the fort at Detroit and undoubtedly believed he could with a few kegs of powder blow up the fort at its gate and the rock embankment, upon which it stood, and then with his braves rush in on the weak garrison. The Sac chief knew also that the fort was but weakly garrisoned. The Prophet had several times attempted to enter its gate, but had been kept out on the orders of Major Bliss, who suspected treachery. The last attempt of the Prophet to enter the fort was but a few days before Black Hawk's attempt to capture it.

#### THE BURNING OF THE FORT.

For thirty-nine years the fort stood as first constructed, and though evacuated and no longer the abode of the soldier since 1836, it was used as a Government warehouse and was a picturesque sight, being an object of interest to all travelers up and down the river as well as to visitors to this locality.

On Sunday afternoon, October 7, 1855, some vandal set fire to the historic buildings. J. B. Danforth, Jr., agent of the quartermasters department of the army, in charge at that time, in a letter written on the 9th of the month to Major D. H. Vinton, quartermaster United States Army at St. Louis, said, "Sir: The barracks and one block fort at this place were destroyed by fire yesterday (Sunday) afternoon. I was in the city at church at the time the fire originated. I immediately rallied about a hundred men with buckets, and endeavored to quell the flames, but to no purpose. We had no fire engine, and it was impossible to stay the progress of the con-

flagration. The buildings were fired by some persons to me unknown, and in the following manner: About thirty kegs of powder had been stored in the magazine by the contractors for the improvement of the rapids, by permission of the secretary of war. The magazine had several times been broken open and powder stolen. It was then stored in a safe room, or what was believed to be safe in the barracks. It had all been taken away, except one keg and one or two parts of kegs. Some persons, while I was at church, had broken open a window and ignited a part of a keg of powder, thus causing the loss of the buildings. I have published an advertisement (at my own expense) to endeavor to find out the perpetrators of the outrage, which I hope will meet your approval. I send you a copy of my paper, containing the advertisement and an editorial notice of the fire."

When the United States government (under the act of 1862) commenced the construction of Rock Island Arsenal in 1863, all that remained of Fort Armstrong was removed. The first building erected stands nearly on the site of the old fort, and the window frames of the basement of this building are made of oak obtained from the old fort.

#### ROSTER AT THE FORT.

The officers and troops stationed at Fort Armstrong from August, 1819 (first return on file), until abandoned May 4, 1836, were as follows:

Commanding officers: Lieutenant Colonel Willoughby Morgan, from 1819; Captain M. Marston, from August 1819 to June 1821, of Company F, Fifth Infantry; Captain S. Burbank, from June, 1821 to June, 1823, of Company D, Fifth Infantry; Major J. H. Vose, from June, 1823 to June 4, 1825, of Companies D and F, Fifth Infantry; Captain S. Burbank, from June 4, 1825 to May 21, 1826, of Companies D and F, Fifth Infantry; Major J. H. Vose, from May 21, 1826 to October 9, 1827,

of Companies E and H, Fifth Infantry; Captain J. Plympton, from October 9, 1827 to April 28, 1828, of Companies E and H, Fifth Infantry; Major S. Burbank, from April 28, 1828 to April 30, 1828, of Companies E and H, Fifth Infantry; Captain J. Green, from April 30, 1828 to June, 1828, of Companies C and G, Third Infantry; Captain J. S. Nelson, from June, 1828 to August 13, 1828, of Companies C and G, Third Infantry; Captain J. Green, from August 13, 1828 to July 27, 1830, of Companies C and G, Third Infantry; Captain John Bliss, July 27, 1830 to July 26, 1831, Companies D and H, Third Infantry; Cap-

tain T. J. Beall, from July 26, 1831 to September 2, 1831, of Companies C and K, First Infantry; Major John Bliss, from September 2, 1831 to May 4, 1832, of Companies C and K, First Infantry; Captain T. J. Beall, from May 4, 1832 to October 26, 1832, of Companies C and K, First Infantry; Lieutenant A. S. Miller, from October 26, 1832 to December 2, 1832, of Companies C and K, First Infantry; Captain T. F. Smith, from December 2, 1832 to June 8, 1833, of Companies G and K, First Infantry; Lieutenant Colonel W. Davenport, from June 8, 1833 to May 4, 1836, of Companies G and K, First Infantry.

## POLITICAL DIVISIONS

The fortunes of Rock Island County have been those of the State of Illinois. In 1541, Ferdinand De Soto discovered the Mississippi River, crossing it somewhere near Memphis; and upon this discovery rested Spain's claim and title to the "far west." The country now known as the State of Illinois is shown on the very early Spanish maps as a part of Florida. Spain made no attempt, however, to plant her settlements in the "Illinois."

In 1763, at the close of the French and Indian Wars, Illinois became British territory, and so remained until July 4, 1778, when Colonel George Rogers Clark and his Virginians captured the British forts and settlements. In October of that year, Illinois was by act of the General Assembly of Virginia created the "County of Illinois," and became a part of the commonwealth of Virginia.

During the Revolutionary War, Illinois and what is now the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, was claimed by each of the states of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia. In 1785 these states surrendered their claim to the General Government, and then Congress passed an

act for the government of this country, which was designated "Western Territory," but nothing was done towards organizing a form of government. On July 13, 1787, Congress passed the celebrated ordinance known as the "Ordinance of 1787," for the government of this country, then called the "Northwest Territory." In 1788 the first officers were appointed. In 1790 the country now Illinois, was established as St. Clair County, named after General Arthur St. Clair, the first governor of the Northwest Territory.

In this year Illinois County became part of Indiana Territory, and in 1809 the country west of the Wabash, north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, was erected into Illinois Territory, which was divided into two counties—Randolph and St. Clair—the territory now Rock Island County forming part of St. Clair County. On September 14, 1812, our county became a part of Madison County, and on January 31, 1821, we were made a part of Pike County. This was the first county erected by the State of Illinois.

January 28, 1823, Fulton County was erected from Pike County, and we became a

part of the former, and so remained until January 13, 1825, when we became a part of Peoria County. On February 17, 1827, Jo Daviess County was erected from Peoria County, and Galena became our county seat. We remained part of Jo Daviess County until 1833, when Rock Island County was organized, with the boundaries as they exist today.

The ordinance of 1787 provided for the forming of one or two states out of the territory now the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. The ordinance provided that the northern boundary of the territory now Illinois should be an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. Had this provision been carried out when Illinois was erected into a state in 1818, that part of Rock Island County east of Moline would now be in Wisconsin.

When the bill to admit Illinois as a state was presented to Congress and referred to the committee, our northern boundary was as defined in the ordinance of 1787, which would have left out of our state the counties of Lake, McHenry, Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane, De Page, Cook, Lee, Whiteside, and also a portion of Kendall, Will, La Salle and Rock Island Counties.

In 1816 the United States made a treaty with the Ottawa, Chippewa and Pottawatomie Indians and it became necessary to establish the point where a line "due west from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan" would strike the Mississippi River. Such a line was surveyed by John Sullivan in 1818, and a monument was erected at its terminus, "on the bank of the Mississippi River near the head of Rock Island." This place is between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets in the City of Moline, and is now occupied by the Moline City Waterworks.

Alexander Pope, the representative from Illinois in Congress, was fully alive to the in-

terests of his constituency. Mr. Pope asked to strike out of the bill the description which bounded Illinois on the north by a line drawn directly west from the southerly boundary of Lake Michigan, and insert the following: "Beginning at the mouth of the Wabash River, thence up the same and with the line of Indiana to the northwest corner of said state; thence east with the line of the same state to the middle of Lake Michigan; thence north along the middle of said lake to north latitude 42 degrees 30 minutes; thence west to the middle of the Mississippi River, and thence down along the middle of that river to its confluence with the Ohio River, and thence up the river along its northwest shore to the beginning." This carried.

The northern boundary of Illinois was thus fixed, and was made to include a strip of land sixty-one miles nineteen chains and thirteen links wide, extending from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, embracing a surface of 8,500 square miles. The line surveyed by Sullivan in 1818 was accepted as a true line until 1833, when Captain Talcott, while making the survey of the Ohio-Michigan boundary, was instructed to ascertain the exact point on the Mississippi River which is due west from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan. He established this point as being "about seven miles north of the fort (Armstrong) on Rock Island."

From 1829 to 1848 the question of adding these fourteen northern and a portion of the four other Illinois counties to Wisconsin was a prominent one in the northern part of the state. Strange to say, for many years most of the people living in the northern part of the state were in favor of being added to Wisconsin; but when Wisconsin was admitted as a state in 1848 its southern boundary line was fixed at the heretofore established northern boundary of the State of Illinois, and thus was forever settled what for many years was a subject of much dispute.

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

(Originally named Island of Rock Island)

COLONEL STANHOPE E. BLUNT

Summing up the history pertaining to the Rock Island Arsenal, located upon the Island of Rock Island, and lying conjointly, one might say, between the cities of Moline, Rock Island and Davenport, is no light task. In the data which contributes to the construction of this history, some of which has been incorporated verbatim, there are numerous dates and incidents which give rise to conflicting thoughts and deductions and the writer has been compelled, in some instances, to resort to comparisons upon which to base his judgments.

Since the advent of Colonel George Davenport, May 10, 1816, several histories of the Arsenal have been written, and a number of personal memoirs of well known pioneers have been printed. Of these latter, the reminiscences of the late Judge J. W. Spencer probably afford the most authentic report, and it is to be deplored that he did not pursue his work to the end that would dispel all doubts as to many transformations and conditions through which the Arsenal passed during the days of the early pioneers and the settlement of Rock Island County.

Starting at the beginning, the purposes and anticipations relative to old Fort Armstrong naturally present themselves; and as this celebrated fort was built on the Island of Rock Island, acquired through a treaty with the Indians in the year 1804, it will be proper to precede our account of it by a brief description of the island itself. Rock Island is situated on the Mississippi River, opposite

the upper end of the City of Rock Island, and between it and Davenport on the Iowa side. It is about two and three quarters miles long by three-fourths of a mile wide, and contains an area of nearly a thousand acres. The base of this island is a mass of limestone, of the Hamilton group, which underlies this section of country. At its lower extremity this rocky exposure rises in an almost perpendicular wall to a considerable height above the water, and was the cause of its being called by its appropriate name—Rock Island.

This mass of light grey or whitish limestone, rising in the broad channel of the Mississippi, and crowned with its luxuriant covering of natural forest trees, was an object of great interest to the early explorers in this region, and its effect was greatly enhanced by coming in view of it unexpectedly, as the traveler was sure to do, in passing the bend in the river a short distance below. After Fort Armstrong was built on the lower point of this island, the view on ascending the river became still more picturesque, and it has been described as one of the most romantic and beautiful scenes in the whole western country. Mr. Henry C. McGrew, who published the first newspaper in Rock Island, and of whom mention is made elsewhere, wrote a letter in 1870, in which he said:

"Although thirty-eight years have passed since I first landed at Rock Island, I shall never forget my first impressions of the place. It was a beautiful moonlight night in June;



and, as I stood upon the deck of the steamer, as we rounded the bend below the village, and beheld old Fort Armstrong on the island in the river, with its whitewashed walls, pretty gardens and officers' houses, the scene was charming, presenting the appearance of some ancient castle. Then there was the village of Davenport on the opposite bank, with its white painted cottages, and on the east, Rock Island, encircled by the bluffs. The panorama inspired me with a feeling of happiness I shall never forget; and, coupled with the idea that I was on the outskirts of civilization, gave the whole scene an air of romance."

Governor Ford, in his History of Illinois, speaking of the arrival of the soldiers here during the first Black Hawk disturbance, in 1831, says:

"The volunteers marched to Rock Island the next morning, and here they encamped for several days, precisely where the town of Rock Island is situated. It was then in a complete state of nature, a romantic wilderness. Fort Armstrong was built on a rocky cliff at the lower point of an island, near the center of the river, a little way above; the shores on each side formed of gentle slopes of prairie extending back to bluffs of considerable height, made it one of the most picturesque scenes in the western country. The river here is a beautiful sheet of clear, swift-running water, about three-quarters of a mile wide. Its banks on both sides were inhabited only by Indians, from the Lower Rapids to the fort; and the voyage up stream, after several days progress through a wilderness country, brought the traveler suddenly in sight of the fort, perched upon a rock, surrounded by the grandeur of Nature, which, at a distance, gave it the appearance of one of those enchanted castles in an uninhabited desert, so well described in the Arabian Night's Entertainments".

The island was the favorite resort of the Indians long before it had ever been visited

by the white man. "Here they loved to assemble for their summer pastimes, and to indulge in the simple amusements of their race; along these rocky shores was their favorite fishing-ground; the swift current which here pours down over successive chains of rapids, was the scene of many a dash and frolic in their light canoes; and here dwelt the kindly spirit whose protecting power preserved the red man, and over whose subterranean abode none dared to walk but with the silent step of supreme reverence and awe." The estimation in which the Sx and Fox Indians held this island is well described by Black Hawk in the following language:

"This was the best island in the Mississippi, and had long been the resort of our young people during the summer. It was our garden, which furnished us with strawberries, blackberries, plums, apples, and nuts of various kinds, and its waters supplied us with pure fish, being situated in the rapids of the river. In my early life I spent many happy days on this island. A good spirit had care of it, who lived in a cave in the rocks immediately under the place where the fort now stands, and has often been seen by our people. He was white, with large wings like a swan's, but ten times larger. We were particular not to make a noise in that part of the island, for fear of disturbing him. But the noise of the fort has since driven him away, and no doubt a bad spirit has taken his place."

The events which led to the building of Fort Armstrong on Rock Island are elsewhere fully described. The British band of Sacs and Foxes had been troublesome in this region all through the latter part of the War of 1812-14. The British had captured the fort at Prairie du Chien, and had not only provided the Indians of this locality with artillery, munitions of war, and men, but had left them at the close of the war with feelings of strong and bitter hostility to the Government. From Jefferson Barracks, below St. Louis, to the mouth of the Wisconsin, the Government

had practically no established military post by which to enforce its authority or to afford protection to its citizens, whose duties might call them into this portion of the United States. The river was, moreover, a highway of the nation, which must be kept guarded by suitable military stations along its banks. The situation at Rock Island was central, accessible, and in near proximity to the most dangerous body of Indians on the river; it was also nearly centrally located on the western border of that great tract of country which these Indians had ceded to the United States in the treaty of 1804, and which would soon be opened for actual settlement.

At the time the fort was built, there were at least 4,000 Indians living on the main shores and adjacent to the island. All those on the east side were the wards of the Government, living on Government lands, which they were allowed by the terms of the treaty to occupy so long as these lands belonged to the United States.

#### BUILDING OF THE FORT.

In 1816 Fort Armstrong was built on the lower point of Rock Island. The force of regulars under Colonel William Lawrence, who came up the river for the purpose of locating and erecting the fort, arrived at the mouth of Rock River and examined the country for a suitable site. They decided on the above location. On the 10th of May, 1816, they landed on the island, and as soon as they had completed their encampment, Colonel Lawrence employed the soldiers to cut logs and build storehouses for their provisions. He also had a bakehouse and oven erected, which was the first building finished on the island. The erection of the fort and its accompanying buildings soon followed, and was named Fort Armstrong, in honor of the secretary of war.

It was a substantial structure of hewed logs, built in the form of a square, the sides of which were four hundred feet in length. A

blockhouse was built at each of the four angles, and embrasures for cannon and loopholes for musketry were provided. A magazine, store-house, barracks, and officers' quarters were erected within the enclosure, and sections of heavy stone work built for protection against fire.

Colonel George Davenport came with the troops as contractor for the Commissary Department. On the 10th of August, 1816, Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Lewis, afterward Mrs. Goldsmith, reached the island. They were the first American ladies who ever ascended the river to this place. Mrs. Davenport died in 1847, aged 72 years. Mrs. Goldsmith, a venerable relic of the post, died in the 76th year of her age.

In 1823, the Virginia, laden with provisions for the garrison at Prairie du Chein, touched the fort. This is said to have been the first steamboat that landed on the island. In 1831, the old Fort on the island was the scene of a council with the Sac and Fox Indians, with a view to persuading them to retire peaceably to the west side of the Mississippi River. About thirty chiefs were present. This council was held by General Gaines, who came from Jefferson Barracks in the steamer Enterprise with a force of regular troops. It resulted in convincing General Gaines that the Indians were determined to fight rather than give up their possessions.

We shall have more to say of these matters when we come to give an account of the Black Hawk War in 1831 and '32. During the war, Fort Armstrong was the rendezvous for the soldiers assembled in this quarter. On the 7th day of August, 1832, five days after the battle of Bad Axe, General Winfield Scott arrived from Fortress Monroe with a force of United States regulars to assist in putting down the Black Hawk disturbance. He was, as we know, too late for that, but in season to call together the conquered Sacs and Foxes at Rock Island, and to conclude a treaty with them, on the 21st of September, for the strip

of land known as the "Black Hawk Purchase," in Iowa. This treaty was not held at Fort Armstrong, as was contemplated, owing to existence of cholera among the soldiers, which then prevailed, but was held on the opposite side of the river, on the grounds formerly occupied by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Depot, and now by the Kimball House. At that time, there were about 1,500 soldiers at the fort.

Fort Armstrong was evacuated by the garrison in 1836, but the island was still held as a military reservation by the Government under successive agents appointed to take charge of it. The first of these was General Street, Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, who, by order of the Government, established the Indian Agency on the island soon after the withdrawal of the troops. In the spring of 1838, the Indian Agency was removed to Agency City, Iowa, on the Des Moines River, and General Street was succeeded by Colonel George Davenport, who had charge of the island until the spring of 1840. Fort Armstrong was then a depot for arms. Captain Shoemaker was placed in charge, and remained until the spring of 1845, when the arms, being required for the Mexican War, were shipped to New Orleans, and Captain Shoemaker went with the army to Mexico. He was succeeded by Thomas Drum, who died in 1853, when Sergeant Cummings, of Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien), was appointed, and on his declination, Colonel J. B. Danforth, Jr., was appointed, January 20, 1854. In 1857, H. Y. Slaymaker, of Davenport, was appointed. In May, 1861, T. J. Pickett succeeded Mr. Slaymaker, and held the position until the island was again occupied for arsenal purposes.

#### ROCK ISLAND ARMORY AND ARSENAL.

The movement for the establishment of a Western Arsenal on Rock Island was begun as early as 1839, in which year it was made the object of a special survey and the subject of a

report to the War Department by Major Bell, of the Ordnance Department, as a feasible and desirable location. In 1843 its advantages for that purpose was reported to Congress by a commissioner appointed by the President, under the provisions of an act of Congress approved September 9, 1841. At a later date it was also the subject of a recommendation to the Government for the same public use.

It was not until the summer of 1861 that the initial step was taken by the citizens of Rock Island looking to the accomplishment of this object. On the first day of July, of that year, a petition addressed to the senators and representatives in Congress was drawn up by the following committee of citizens of Rock Island, viz: N. B. Buford, J. Wilson Drury, Ira O. Wilkinson, Ben Harper, Reuben Hatch, George Mixter, J. B. Danforth, Jr., and P. L. Cable, asking Congress to establish a national armory and arsenal on Rock Island, and setting forth the special advantages of the site for such an establishment.

By the action of these gentlemen another committee of leading citizens of the three cities—Rock Island, Moline and Davenport—was appointed, consisting of the following named persons: Ira O. Wilkinson, N. B. Buford, H. C. Connelly, J. Wilson Drury and Bailey Davenport, of Rock Island; W. H. F. Gurley, George L. Davenport, and G. M. French of Davenport, and C. Atkinson and P. R. Reed, of Moline. These gentlemen memorialized Congress in an ably prepared pamphlet, with a map of this locality, upon the claims and advantages of Rock Island as the site for the proposed Western Arsenal and Armory.

This memorial sets forth that a new Armory and Arsenal, for the manufacture, safe-keeping and distribution of arms and munitions of war, are of pressing national necessity demanded alike by the present wants and future requirements of the Government, and that the preponderating growth of the northwest,

as well as the absence of any such establishment within its limits, indicate that such an armory should be located upon the upper Mississippi. Coming directly to the claims of Rock Island, the memorialists say: "Believing that Rock Island, in the State of Illinois, in the centrality and safety of its geographical position, the facilities it affords for transportation to and from other parts of the country, the cheapness and abundance of its motive power and the materials used in the manufacture of arms, in the supply and cheapness of labor and food, in the healthfulness, spaciousness and general eligibility of the site, and the possession and ownership thereof by the Government free of cost or expense—enjoys advantages equal, if not superior, to those possessed by any other place in the northwest for the location of such an establishment—your memorialists would respectfully ask your attention to a brief notice of these advantages." The advantages are set forth in the ten or twelve pages which follow with great force and cogency of argument. In this document we find a report of the action of the Iowa Legislature and of the authorities of Illinois on the subject, and a certificate of the government agent in charge of the Island.

#### JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOWA LEGISLATURE.

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Iowa, That the senators in Congress from this State be requested to use their utmost exertions to procure the establishment, at the earliest possible time, by the Government of the United States, of an Arsenal and Armory, for the distribution of arms to the states of the northwest, on the Island of Rock Island, in the State of Illinois.

"RESOLVED That the Secretary of State be requested to forward to each of the Senators and representatives in Congress a copy of these resolutions."

'Approved March 24, 1861.'

No session of the legislature of Illinois had been held immediately prior to this action, but Governor Yates and the other state officers, both civil and military, addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, urging the location of the Armory upon Rock Island.

#### CERTIFICATE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AGENT.

"I, T. J. Pickett, Government Agent for the Island of Rock Island, hereby certify that the lands owned by the Government on said island are free from the claims of squatters, and that the only occupants thereon are eight in number, who hold leases under and acknowledge themselves tenants of said Government, in which lease it is specifically agreed that the lessors are to vacate the premises in thirty days from the date of receiving notice requiring them to leave

T. J. PICKETT, Government Agent.

Rock Island, Ill., Oct. 25, 1861."

Copies of the above memorial were freely distributed among the members of Congress and laid on the desk of every senator and representative. An act of Congress providing for the Arsenal and Armory, and making an appropriation of \$100,000, was passed July 11, 1862. In May of the following year a commission, composed of Major F. D. Callander, Major C. P. Kingsbury and Captain F. J. Treadwell, was sent by the Ordnance Department to locate the proposed Arsenal building on Rock Island. Sites also for magazines on the island were recommended by the commission. The report was adopted and Major Kingsbury was ordered to take charge of the work of construction. He arrived in August, 1863, and on the 3d day of September broke ground for the government building at the lower end of the island.

From an article prepared by Captain L. M. Haverstick, and published in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* at the time we quote the following, with a few changes adapting it to our purpose:



"An arsenal merely for the storage and repair of arms was not what the Ordnance Department contemplated, nor what the country needed at Rock Island. Therefore in August, 1865, General T. J. Rodman was assigned to the command of the island, with instructions to prepare plans for an armory and arsenal combined, where small arms and other munitions of war could be manufactured as well as repaired and stored. The great scientific knowledge and long experience of General Rodman peculiarly fitted him for this work, and the result was an elaborate plan, equal to the wants and interests of the country."

#### GENERAL RODMAN'S PLANS.

General Rodman's plans were submitted to Congress during the session of 1865 and approved. An appropriation was made to begin work on the new buildings; and from that time forward steady progress has been made until now Rock Island Arsenal is the foremost in the United States.

A portion of the Island had been sold under a special act of Congress. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company had located their track across the island and built upon its banks the abutments for their bridges. When the Government decided to utilize the island for a permanent and extensive manufacturing depot, it was found necessary to buy out the interests of the private parties and of the railroad company. A commission consisting of General J. M. Scofield, Selden M. Church and James Barnes, was appointed to appraise the lands on the island owned by individuals.

An act of Congress, approved June 27, 1866, appropriated the money necessary to buy out their claims, authorized the relocation of the railroad bridge, and provided for compensating the railroad company for changing its route across the island. The same act made an appropriation to begin work on the development of the waterpower.

Under this and subsequent acts the Government united with the railroad company in the erection of the iron bridge, which served the general purposes until the constitution of the present magnificent bridge, sharing in the expense and securing a free wagon way in addition to the railroad tracks.

By order of the War Department, in July, 1863, Rock Island was made a military prison for the confinement of Confederate prisoners. During the same month, Captain Charles A. Reynolds, Assistant Quartermaster United States Army, arrived, and commenced building a prison and barracks. The first soldiers for guard duty arrived November 2, 1863. Lieutenant Colonel Schaffner arrived on the 19th of November and took command. On the 22d, Colonel Richard Henry Rush arrived and took command of the post, and Colonel A. J. Johnson was appointed in charge of the prisoners. The first installment of prisoners, taken at the battle of Lookout Mountain, arrived from Chattanooga, December 3, 1863; and from that time until the close of the war a large number of prisoners were kept under a strong guard upon the island. The whole number of prisoners confined here was 12,215; the number of deaths was 1,960. About 500 died of small-pox, many of scurvy, and others of various diseases, chiefly pneumonia. They were put into rough boxes and buried in trenches. The corner-posts of the cemetery where their ashes repose, are composed of cannon taken from the Confederates, planted with their muzzles in the ground, and strung around with chains. Within this enclosure sleep nearly 2,000 Confederate dead. At a few of the graves, friends of the deceased have erected plain headstones, and placed on them a few simple inscriptions. There is also near the head of the island, a Union soldiers' cemetery where 310 graves are enclosed by a neat fence.

On July 11, 1862, Congress passed the act authorizing the establishment of the Arsenal

and providing the first funds for beginning the necessary buildings.

Major C. P. Kingsbury, a well known and competent officer of the Ordnance Department, was assigned as the first commandant and under his direction, a year later, a storehouse was erected at the lower or extreme western end of the Arsenal, which, with its tower and clock, has since been a landmark and an object of interest, not merely to the inhabitants of the three cities, but also to all travelers on the main line of the Rock Island road.

In 1865 General Thomas J. Rodman was assigned to the command, and followed in 1871 by General D. W. Flagler, who remained commandant until 1886. To these two officers is mainly due the general plan of the Arsenal as it exists today, with nearly all its principal buildings; their conception of the disposition and arrangement of the ten great shops, with the various subsidiary buildings, was an immense advance over the stereotyped plan of all arsenal construction of preceding years, and in subsequent developments, in response to great demands upon the Arsenal's resources, has proved most admirably adapted for the purpose for which designed.

These plans as first prepared by Rodman, developed by Flagler, and followed with only slight modifications by their successors, have resulted in the erection, principally of Joliet stone, of a magnificent equipment of shops, storehouses, barracks, quarters and numerous subsidiary buildings.

The shops comprise ten stone buildings sixty feet wide, built around three sides of a rectangular central court, with fronts two hundred and ten feet and wings three hundred feet long; eight of the shops are of four stories, the other two of only one, but providing in all over thirty acres of floor space. Seven of these buildings are now occupied by machinery, the other three by the raw material for manufacture and by finished stores. There are also two large storehouses and

numerous other small buildings for boilers for the heating plant and for lumber, coal, oil, etc., for officer's quarters, soldiers' barracks and for the many other necessities of a large government manufacturing establishment.

One of these storehouses replaced an earlier structure destroyed by fire with its contents was only completed in the spring of 1905. It is most recently erected of all the main buildings of the Arsenal.

For many years the commandant's quarters and three others of stone have provided accommodations for the assistant officers, but within the last few years two attractive buildings of more modern design, one frame and the other of yellow brick, have been erected at the eastern end of Terrace Road, forming a most attractive addition to the residential district of the Arsenal, and during the present year, the old buildings, relics of the Civil War, used for many years as a hospital and as stables, have been replaced by attractive and convenient modern structures.

In May, 1886, Colonel T. G. Baylor, Ordnance Department, succeeded General Flagler as commandant. He was followed three years later by Colonel J. M. Whitte more and he, in 1892, by General A. R. Buffington, who continued in command for five years. Under these officers the main buildings were carried to completion, manufactures prosecuted at a moderate scale, and under the latter, the present magnificent bridge from the Arsenal to Davenport erected.

The island is connected with the three neighboring cities by bridges built and owned by the Government and maintained and guarded by the Arsenal, and by its own track with the railways that reach them. The bridge from the Arsenal to the City of Davenport is the third bridge provided for railway and subsequently for general traffic. Of the first nothing now remains but a vine-covered stone pier about a quarter of a mile above the present structure. It was the pioneer bridge

across the Mississippi river from its mouth to its source and was completed fifty-two years ago, being used by the Rock Island railroad until October, 1872, when a bridge upon the present location was finished. Twenty-four years later this latter bridge, having proved insufficient for the traffic to which it was subjected, the present magnificent structure was finished. Its total length is 1,550 feet, divided into five spans and one draw. It is double decked, with a double railroad track above and double street car track and wagon bridge below. The traffic across this bridge is now much greater than formerly and is an indication of the growth of population in the cities of Rock Island and Davenport, which it connects. Now it is at the rate of about 40,000 engines annually, over 80,000 passenger cars, and 340,000 freight cars. In addition over 450,000 teams and nearly 1,000,000 pedestrians.

Only about 1,000 steamboats passed up and the same number down and the traffic through the draw of barges and rafts has decreased year by year.

A trolley line also crosses the bridge and is traversed during the year by over 100,000 street cars. A branch of this line was some years ago extended from Fort Armstrong Avenue, crossing the western end of the island, for about a mile up to the shops and extending beyond across the branch of the river at the south of the island to the neighboring City of Rock Island. It was built in response to petitions from Arsenal workmen for their accommodation and under a special revocable license granted by the Secretary of War for that purpose. It is not available for general traffic from Davenport to Rock Island, nor from either city to the Arsenal, being reserved solely for use of the employees.

In March, 1897, Captain Stanhope E. Blunt, Ordnance Department, was appointed commandant and through successive promotions to Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel, the latter grade being given in June,

1906, has through more than ten years' continued in command.

Colonel Blunt's administration has been marked by great expansion in the Arsenal's facilities for manufacturing war material; over \$1,200,000 worth of modern machinery being installed in the shops, and the power transmission system changed from the antiquated wire rope transmission of the water power to a modern hydro-electric plant of ample capacity for the Arsenal's needs.

The island, containing nearly 1,000 acres, is irregular in shape, about two and one-half miles long and three-fourths of a mile across at its widest part.

The main channel of the Mississippi river passes between the island and the Iowa shore, a much narrower branch separating it from the Illinois bank. Across this smaller stream, a short distance above the shops, a masonry dam has been constructed producing, in consequence of the reach of rapids opposite and above the island, a water power of ample capacity; having a head of from seven and one-half to eleven feet, according to the stage of the river, and on the dam, operated by twenty turbines, have been installed three alternating current generators of 1,650 kilowatt total capacity, with the accompanying exciters, switchboard, etc., required for their operation.

The building housing this installation, with generators, shafting and all other incidental machinery, has been completed, not only in a substantial but in a highly ornamental manner, rendering the power house not only one of the most interesting objects for visitors to the Arsenal, but also from its appearance one of the most attractive.

At present nearly 3,000 horse-power is thus provided, which can be increased, if it should ever prove necessary, by utilizing penstocks on the dam now occupied, and installing the corresponding additional electrical machinery.

None of the navy yards or other arsenals possess this combination of ample water

power and electrical transmission, and the development of the power plant to its present really magnificent condition, permitting the greatest economy, with also the greatest facility and convenience of operation, is one of the principal distinguishing features of the Rock Island Arsenal.

Several years ago Congress made a preliminary appropriation for the necessary machinery for manufacture of small arms at the Arsenal, following it at the next session with a sufficient sum to permit the installation of a plant that should turn out about two hundred and fifty finished rifles per day.

The complete establishment of the plant required a material increase in the power provided and also its transmission to the new armory; it also included the completion of three of the large shops, with elevators, a steam heating plant, lavatory conveniences, work benches for employes, rooms for foremen and inspectors, and the introduction of the many minor but essential appliances requisite for economical and efficient operation, including even tunnels connecting the basement floors of the different shops, which afford passage for the heating pipes, fuel oil pipes, electric power and lighting wires, and for small trolley cars for transportation between buildings of the various components of the rifles in the different stages of their manufacture.

In this small-arms plant and in the shops of the southern row over 2,400 machines of a great variety are disposed, with the shafting for their operation and the necessary benches, and the other numerous appliances requisite for their occupancy by workmen. Operation of the shops upon the scale now required for the manufacture of gun carriages, equipments, small arms, etc., employs at present about 2,000 men, at a monthly charge for wages of from \$125,000 to \$130,000. If compared with its operation ten years ago it will be observed that four times as many men are now employed as at the earlier date

and that the monthly wages are about five times greater. The annual tonnage of receipts and issues is also five times greater than in 1897. The total expenditures at the Arsenal in the fiscal year 1897 for all purposes amounted to \$683,000; while for the last three fiscal years it has averaged nearly \$4,000,000 annually.

The Arsenal upon the scale now operated provides the soldiers' ordnance equipment for an army of 60,000 men, and is besides constantly adding to the reserve supply. By merely taking on additional employes it could, without delay, increase its output to meet the demands of an army of half a million men, and by adding additional machinery, for which necessary space and power has been provided and its disposition arranged for, and also the employes for its operation, this output could be still further immensely increased.

Besides the saddle in all its parts, beginning with the lumber used in the saddletree, the bridle, saddlebags, rifle scabbard, halter, horse-brush, cartridge box, saber belt, and many other articles included under the general designation of infantry, cavalry and horse equipment, are also made. The haversack, canteen, cup, meat can, knife, fork and spoon, of duck and other material, which constitute the soldiers' more personal equipment, and of metal the bits, spurs, picket pin, etc., which he also uses, are included in the manufactures.

Many sets of artillery harness are annually made and also the numerous parts and general supplies pertaining thereto. Also pack outfits for mountain artillery by means of which guns, their carriages and ammunition are carried on mule back.

The Arsenal has recently completed some six-inch barbette carriages for seacoast forts and for four years past has been regularly engaged in the manufacture of a large number of the new three-inch field gun carriages, model of 1902, with the accompanying



timbers, caissons, battery wagons, and their tools, implements, etc. This is of itself a most important work, requiring the services of a number of the best mechanics, and would alone be deemed elsewhere a sufficient task for many an establishment, though at Rock Island it comprises as stated only a portion of the manufacturing work.

In order that the field artillery carriages manufactured at the Arsenal may be tested before issue to develop any unknown defects if they should exist, all such material is proof fired at grounds specially laid out for that purpose at the upper or eastern end of the island. This included a large timber and sand butt into which the projectiles are shot, and which is of such dimensions that they cannot emerge therefrom. The many additional instruments for determining the velocity of the projectile, velocity of recoil of parts of the carriage, or pressure of the powder charge in the bore, and other features necessary to give the constructing officer of ordnance the information which he needs in designing other material, or in verifying the correctness of the design undergoing proof, are also installed in special structures erected at the proving ground for their reception. With these buildings is included an observation tower permitting by its use a river range for firing up the river of approximately 6,500 yards and enabling these carriages to be tested and proof fired under an elevation.

The Arsenal also makes the wooden targets of different designs and all the paper targets, steel silhouette frames, and pasters used in target practice, as well as the insignia indicating the soldiers' classification in markmanship, and the various insignia on saddle cloths, rosettes on bridles, and similar ornamental jewelers' work.

In its armory shops the daily output for several years past has been from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five finished magazine rifles per day, an industry in itself of greater magnitude than that of the army's

other small arm factory until within very recent years.

Besides its manufactures the Arsenal is also the distributing point to all parts in the middle west for the product of other arsenals and of the private establishments from which the government purchases.

The total cost of the Arsenal from its establishment to July 1, 1907, including the erection of the permanent buildings, the acquisition, development and later improvement of the water power, the large bridge across the Mississippi, and the smaller ones to the Illinois shore, and the purchase and installation of the machinery in the shops, under the different commandants is as follows:

Major C. P. Kingsbury, 1863-65, \$231,384.-72; General T. J. Rodman, 1865-71, \$2,302,-626.30; General D. W. Flagler, 1871-86, \$4,982,481.45; Colonel T. G. Baylor, 1886-89, \$663,450.00; Colonel J. M. Whittemore, 1889-92, \$377,318.48; General A. R. Buffington, 1892-97, \$477,375.50; Colonel S. E. Blunt, 1897-07, \$2,051,198.88; total, \$11,085,835.33.

The total disbursement for labor has been \$17,213,056.90 since the establishment of the Arsenal to July 1, 1907.

During the first twenty-five years, or up to the conclusion of General Flagler's administration, construction of buildings, bridges, roads, etc., and the earlier steps in development of water power formed the principal work, the very limited amount of machinery which had been installed, being operated to only a moderate extent and the disbursements, including wages, being mainly in connection with building construction.

In the second period, continuing until about the time of the Spanish War, construction except for the rebuilding of the bridge from the Arsenal to Davenport, nearly ceased, while the manufacturing operations of the Arsenal continued at a slightly increasing but still very moderate extent.

The third period embraces the great increase in amount and variety of manufacture,

including that of small arms, and accompanying expansion of plant, with some incidental building operations, commencing in the latter part of 1897, during the first year of the administration of Colonel Blunt, slightly before the earlier days of the Spanish War, and continuing to the present date.

Senator Allison, to whose faith and interest in the Arsenal must be largely ascribed the generous appropriations granted during many years past for its construction and development, is quoted as saying that "Rock Island Arsenal, during the few months of the late Spanish War, more than returned in advantage to the country the great cost of its construction; and unquestionably in a war of any magnitude and duration this cost would again be repaid many fold.

The Arsenal from March, 1897 to August, 1907, was commanded by Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt, Ordnance Department. The other officers are now Majors Babbitt, Thompson and Burr; Captains Gallup and Hillman and Contract Surgeon Craig. The garrison is a detachment of one hundred soldiers of the Ordnance Department,

Commencing in the spring of 1907, the superstructure of the old truss bridge, over Sylvan Water, connecting the Island with the Illinois shore, was removed, for the preparation of the new viaduct concrete bridge. The old four stone piers, with two abutments, were used in the new substructure, and owing to the girder style of construction of

the new bridge, four new concrete piers were built. The new viaduct bridge was designed by Ralph Modjeski, the noted architectural engineer, and built under the supervision of the war department; the contractors being Bayne and Hewett of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Its construction represents an expenditure by the government of \$125,000, with \$1600 additional, for widening the causeway, between the bridge and Fort Armstrong Avenue, and bridge sidewalks. The Tri-City Railway Company, assuming the cost of the brick cemented driveway, trolley poles, and new tracks, amounting to \$10,000; making a total cost of \$136,600. The new bridge was opened for street car and passenger traffic December 12, 1907; opened for general traffic, December 18, 1907, and was accepted by the government, January 16, 1908.

The width of the structure is twenty feet between curbs, with two sidewalks, each six feet.

The incline approach from the City of Rock Island side consists of the original stone wall one hundred and twenty-four feet long; the new concrete wall, joining same, extending to railroad track abutment, is one hundred and seventy feet long. The bridge proper consists of eleven spans, making a length of 801.1 feet, and total length with approach approximately 1096 feet. The solidity of the entire structure is evident in every detail.

The present commandant of the Island, is Colonel S. E. Hobbs.

## TOPOGRAPHY OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

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Rock Island County lies upon the western boundary of the great agricultural prairie state of Illinois. This boundary, the majestic Mississippi River, is bordered by bluffs that give a rugged and diversified surface to this river county. Rock Island County is notably a river county, for it stretches for almost sixty miles in an irregular strip along the Father of Waters. It also has for its boundary line (for the upper half of the county) upon the southeast another famous stream, Rock River. The third natural boundary is Meredosia Slough or creek which separates Rock Island from Whiteside County for some miles on the county's northeastern portion. The county is separated into two somewhat compact sections or portions by the Rock River which crosses the county on its way to union with the Mississippi.

The northern section of the county has unusual topographical interest, being almost entirely upland of an elevation of fifty to one hundred feet above the general level of the rivers on either side. This wall of bluffs varies greatly in outline and picturesqueness. It is of gentle declivity at times and at others of rugged abruptness. The bluffs along the Mississippi follow the river in general and for the most part rise from the water's edge. A few miles above the present locations of Moline and Rock Island the bluff line recedes from the river, and an alluvial plain of richness and gentle slope is formed. The bluffs which form the other side of this plateau of the upper county section are manifest in rugged beauty along the north bank of the

Rock River near the location of Milan. The lines of bluff and stream diverge not far east of Milan, leaving a broad stretch of alluvial acres. The same relative location of bluff and stream and plain is maintained after the Meredosia Slough is reached. From this creek the bluffs turn west and reach the Mississippi near Cordova. Men of research say that it is altogether probable that in the early days of the great river its path lay through the Meredosia Slough and the bed and valley of Rock River. If so, the portion of Rock Island County under consideration, at one time was upon the western or Iowa side of the Father of Waters. This elevated tract of the upper county was originally well covered with undergrowth and scattering timber. Its surface is fairly rough but is generally continuous except where a depression called Pleasant Valley cuts across the upland region from Hampton on the Mississippi to Carbon Cliff on Rock River. The farms in Pleasant Valley are considered among the best of the upper county. The elevated region has been farmed many years and has been made to yield productively, especially in cereals and fruits. The bottom lands are of surpassing fertility. Along the rivers there are some sandy tracts that are unfitted for tillage, but in the main the farmers of this portion of the county have greatly prospered.

The southern portion of Rock Island County is a fairly symmetrical rectangle thirty-three miles from east to west. It has for its northern boundary the Mississippi and Rock Rivers. Its western boundary is

also the Mississippi which turns to the southward at Muscatine on the Iowa shore or just west of Drury's landing on the Illinois side. Mercer County lies to the south and Henry County to the east of this portion of Rock Island County.

This section comprises the greater part of the excellent farming lands of the county. There are alluvial bottom lands, rolling upland prairies and bluff lands of less agricultural value. The prairies responded most quickly to the efforts of the early settler and have for many years shown the most beautiful farms in the county. The alluvial lands were somewhat swampy or boggy in part and did not yield well until modern methods of drainage were employed. Along the south side of the Rock River bottom bluffs appear, the range rising abruptly in places to an average height of more than one hundred feet. At Andalusia the bluffs approach the Mississippi River which washes their base almost to the southern line of the county, except in a few places where an uncultivated low bottom intervenes, seamed with sloughs. This range of bluffs is cut up with hollows and ravines and is covered with a moderate growth of timber, principally oak. The rough land extending back into the highland for several miles is the least valuable portion of the county for agriculture.

Rock River is the principal stream within the borders of the county and furnishes a water power second only to the Mississippi. It rises in Wisconsin about midway between the Wisconsin River and Lake Michigan. Its course in Illinois is almost one hundred and eighty miles long. Its chief tributary, the Pecatonica, discharges its waters below the northern boundary of the state. The valley of the Rock River is one of the most healthful and wealthy sections of Illinois. After forming a portion of the boundary between Henry and Rock Island Counties it divides the latter into its northern and southern portions and empties into the Mississippi about three miles below the City of Rock Island. In the last

few miles of the stream there is a sharp fall in level, and as a result a series of beautiful rapids.

#### GEOLOGY.

The soil of the Rock River and Meredosia bottoms is the rich alluvial deposit that is found in the neighborhood of all streams in this part of the Mississippi basin. The small portion of the county lying north of the bluff line is level sand prairie. This level stretch assists the imagination in calling up a vision of a mightier Mississippi than the one with which the earliest inhabitants of the valley were acquainted. In those earlier ages of the earth's history when the river divided at this point with its main channel in the slough and Rock River bed it was miles in width. This prairie was a broad headland and bar. The bluff buttressed upland of the northern county was a noble island rising from the waters of the swiftly rolling, magnificent river. The sand brought down by the current lodged against the head of this great island and the sand plain was slowly formed, just as the bars are now being formed against every obstruction in the river in these days.

This great stream which has left its history written on bluff and bar and pictured in sculptured bedrock and drifted cairn has no more perfect record than its old shore line marked high along its bluffs. The town of Cordova is built almost entirely upon a terrace which was once the bed of the river. This terrace is fifty feet above the present low water mark of the Mississippi. This reminder and evidence of the ancient river's majesty can be traced along the slough and Rock River bluffs until that river empties into the Mississippi.

Evidences of glacial drift are almost absent in this county. Genuine drift gravel and boulders are scarce. The soil of the bluffs and hills is a marly deposit known as "loess" which overlies blue clays and sands. Farther from the river the "loess" gives place to fine laminated drift clays such as cover most Illinois high prairies and upland barrens.



The surface soil is underlaid by foundations of stone of successive geologic ages. At the eastern end of the county near Hampton the upper and more shaley beds of the Hamilton limestone first appear in outcroppings along the Mississippi bank. Still heavier outcrops show near Moline. Here the stratum is thicker, is brown in color, and is fossil bearing. Farther west near Rock Island and Milan the Hamilton is thicker, bedded with more irregular stratification, the color bluish white or brown on recent fracture, and the rock of firm texture and density.

The island in the Mississippi known as Rock Island is a great mass of this Hamilton limestone, chiseled into shape by the water, covered with comparatively thin soil and splendidly wooded. This island is rich in indications of primitive conditions in this section as it has stretches of forest that have been allowed to retain their natural beauty and charm.

The Devonian limestone of this county have been divided by scientists for lithological reasons into three divisions namely: the upper, the middle and the lower; each marked by its distinguishing characteristics. The upper-most division is limestone of gray or brown color, is rough and coarse-grained, and filled with the shells and corals that mark the Hamilton beds. The deposit is from thirty to forty feet in thickness. The middle division is made up of argillaceous and calcareous shales of equal thickness, this rock being filled with characteristic Hamilton fossils. The most easily noted outcropping of this division is between Rock Island and Moline where in quarrying a perpendicular space of thirty feet has been exposed. Under this division lies the third division which consists of a fine grained compact stone, of gray or dove color. This extends below the river level and is of an unknown thickness. It has been penetrated by borings to the depth of one hundred and seventy-five feet.

This Devonian limestone of the third division forms the bed of Mississippi and Rock Rivers in this region. Rock River from Milan almost to the Mississippi is paved with what seem to be massive blocks of this compact stone irregular in size and contour and worn to smoothness by the ceaseless flow of the rapid current. The depth of this lithic stream bed has not been determined. At Sears' mill which formerly stood below Black Hawk's Watch Tower, rock was quarried from the stone floor of the channel to the depth of twenty feet, and it is probable that they were only upon the upper surface of the formation. At Cleveland near the eastern line of the county this same rock appears in the bed of the stream, so that it is probable that the bed of Rock River in its course along and through Rock Island County is formed of the Hamilton limestone at times obscured and overlaid by a mud deposit made possible by irregularities in the formation and moderate river fall. The limestone of the Rock River bed shows few fossils.

It is this same division of the Hamilton limestone that forms the bed of the Mississippi throughout the sixty miles that this stream washes the shores of Rock Island County on the north and west. It created the terrors for the early navigators by its "hog-backs" and rocky chains thrown across the rapids in their sixteen miles of declivity and rapid rush of the mighty current. From the City of Rock Island to the western border of the county there are but few places where the bed of the stream is so near the surface of the water as to cause trouble to the rivermen. It is an alternation of stretches of sand, mud and rocky bottom.

At Andalusia excellent building stone has been quarried from this lowest member of the Hamilton group. The layers are comparatively thin. The stone is fossiliferous and of a dove or light blue color.

Another limestone formation appearing locally that has added to the wealth of Rock

Island County is the Niagara deposit which outcrops heavily from Cordova to Port Byron. A little south of Hampton it disappears beneath the outliers of the coal measures. At Cordova this limestone has a tough consistency and hornstone appearance, differing in these respects from the same formation as it appears farther north along the river bank. All the upland region of the upper county lying above Pleasant Valley is underlaid by this Niagara limestone. The upper soil and upland clay is cut through by the streams and in the beds of these small waterways the limestone appears.

This Niagara limestone has been commercially valuable through its burning into excellent quicklime which is strong, white and pure. At Cordova and Port Byron there have been for many years extensive works for the manufacture of lime and this has found its way on its merits into the markets of this country. The Hamilton limestone has also been found very available for lime-burning and great quantities of this raw material have been converted into merchantable lime. The limestone deposits of Rock Island County have furnished inexhaustible quantities of building stone to the quarryman and builder.

Another lithic mine of wealth to the settlers of Rock Island County has been the deposit of sandstone which outcrops in the lower part of the county. For a half century a quarry in a ravine midway between Millan and Andalusia has furnished building stone or rock for heavy masonry. The stone is dark colored and iron stained and comes from a stratum about ten feet thick. This deposit seems to be available by removing the soil deposit at any point along the bluffs to the west line of the county. Near Copper Creek in Drury Township there is a quarry which has supplied the demand for this material for walls which has proved durable and reliable where it has been used. After many years of use it seems to be unaffected by the elements.

The clays of the upper part of the county have been used for commercial purposes. There are unlimited deposits of material for the manufacture of drain tile and this has become an important industry at various points, the most important point for manufacturing and shipping being Carbon Cliff on account of excellence of clay and convenience to railroads. The vein of potter's clay which also appears in this section of Rock Island County has been worked to advantage. There has been a pottery in successful operation at Hampton for many years.

In this series of geological notes naturally belongs reference to a remarkable group of mineral springs known as the "Rinnah Wells" springs. They have been known from Indian days to have medicinal properties and some of them were long ago improved by stone curbs and facilities for obtaining the water in perfect purity. The sediment of the water caused by natural or artificial evaporation is a whitish mineral salt of pronounced and rather agreeable soda taste. These springs have also been called the "White Sulphur Springs", also the "Soda Springs" and through the similarity of the waters to those famous ones of Saratoga and their marked medicinal value it was prophecied years ago that a great resort would some day be built up near Andalusia. These expectations have so far been unrealized, the use of the waters having been limited to local converts to their good qualities. It may yet be that Andalusia with its romantic name and waters of healing may yet attract the attention of the world and that this beautifully located village may be the mecca of tourists and healthseekers.

#### NATURAL SCENIC BEAUTY.

The variety in the topography of Rock Island County has made possible scenery of commanding beauty. Early voyagers were impressed with the charm of situation of Rock Island, the splendid island surrounded by the

bright waters of the Mississippi and bounded by the outlying bluffs like unto a spacious amphitheatre changing with the seasons from the charm of green clad eminence to russet autumn foliage splashed with vermilion tints and then to snow-clad winter hills. Many chapters have been written of this section. One extract will be sufficient to give an idea of all. Governor Reynolds in his "Life and Times" has this paragraph: "The scenery about Rock Island is not surpassed by any in the whole length of the Mississippi. It seems as though Nature had made an effort in forming this beautiful and picturesque country. Rock Island itself presents a grand and imposing appearance, rising out of the waters of the Mississippi a solid rock with many feet elevation. It is several miles long, and three-fourths of a mile wide. The rocks are covered with a fertile soil. The river washes around its base with a rapid current of pure and limpid water and Rock River, a few miles south, is seen in the distance, forcing its way with great rapidity over the rocky rapids into the Father of Waters. The country around it is interspersed with beautiful groves of timber, which give to the scene a sweetness and a beauty rarely equaled. The blue hills in the distance, directing the course of the river, are seen on the north and the south to rise with gentle slopes from the water to considerable elevations, and the valley between, embracing the river is some miles in extent, presenting a variety of surface and a beauty of landscape never surpassed."

This scenic beauty Rock Island County naturally shares with the part of Iowa lying on the opposite bank of the Mississippi. There is however one location of great natural beauty solely within the boundaries of this county. It is the rugged upland formed on one hand by the bluffs of the Mississippi and on the other by the precipitous bluffs of the Rock River. From countless elevations on this tract there are views of surpassing beauty. The eye is challenged by striking

declivities of solid rock; rests admiringly upon stretches of woods that border winding streams of bright and limpid water and rests peacefully upon widely stretching farmlands marked by hedgerows and clumps of trees. Rising abruptly for a height of two hundred feet above the water level is the eminence known as Black Hawk's Watch Tower. From the crest of this noble hill a panorama of striking beauty is unrolled before the eye of the visitor. To the west stretches the line of bluffs that overlooks the confluence of the waters of the Mississippi and Rock Rivers. To the southwest one can see the location of Black Hawk's village. To the south in the foreground lies the town of Milan to which the elevation and distance give picturesqueness. In the immediate foreground are the four channels of Rock River spanned by railroad and wagon bridges, the intervening islands covered with groves of stately elms and between the shimmering and glancing waters hurry over rocky rapids. The neighborhood of the Watch Tower, as it is familiarly known, is rich in Indian legends through its having been the location of one of the largest Indian settlements of the continent from the time when tradition begins. Black Hawk's Watch Tower takes its name from this Indian chief and great Sac warrior; he having watched from its summit the approach of the troops sent against him by Governor Reynolds at the beginning of the short, sharp and decisive conflict known in history as Black Hawk's War. The Watch Tower is easily accessible from Rock Island, Moline, Davenport and Milan by electric lines and is visited annually by many thousand tourists and residents of this locality. A handsome inn crowns the elevation and the various attractions of a modern amusement park furnish recreation for the multitude.

#### COAL MEASURES.

In that portion of the county lying west of Rock Island the coal measures are found as

"outliers", overlaying and resting unconformably upon the Devonian and Upper Silurian limestone, as far north as the vicinity of Port Byron, where it finally terminates. The most northerly point where a workable bed of coal has been found on this side of the river, is at Rapids City, where the seam is from four to five feet thick, and overlies the Niagara limestone, with only a few feet of thickness of shales and fire clay between.

Two miles east of Hampton, where coal shafts have been sunk, are good seams from four to five feet thick. The Carbon Cliff mines were the earliest worked on the west side of Rock River. For many years extensive coal operations were carried on at this point but the limited supply of coal finally became so nearly exhausted that mining here was discontinued.

The triangular piece of elevated land east of the City of Rock Island, bounded by Pleasant Valley, Rock River and the Mississippi, is a mass of coal materials, resting upon a

Devonian or Upper Silurian formation of underlying limestone.

All that part of the county, south and east of the Mississippi and the Rock River ranges of bluffs, is underlaid by the coal measures. In every part of the county the coal measures are covered with a deep deposit of drift-clays. At Milan, Carbon Cliff, and east of the City of Rock Island, this drift clay is from forty to seventy-five feet in thickness.

South of Rock River the coal measures are more regular and more extensively developed than in the northern part of the county. The coal mining industry in this county has become most important. The thickness of the coal seems to vary from three and a half to five and a half feet and is reached at a depth of from forty to one hundred and twenty feet. Coal is raised at the principal mines by steam power. The active operations in mining have greatly enhanced the value of contiguous lands, and led to the introduction of railroads as a special means of transportation.



## ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY

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In the early history of the State of Illinois, all the territory lying north and west of the Illinois River formed one county, under the name of Pike County. Prior to the organization of Rock Island County, it was attached to Jo Daviess County.

By an act of the legislature, approved February 9, 1831, which after fixing the boundaries, and naming the county, provided for the election of certain county officers, whenever it should contain three hundred and fifty inhabitants; and that after such election, said County of Rock Island, should be considered as organized. Said boundaries were as follows: Beginning in the middle of the channel of the Mississippi River, on the north line of Township 15, north, and west of the Fourth Principal Meridian; thence running eastwardly on said line to the Fourth Principal Meridian; thence north to the middle of the channel of Rock River; thence up the middle of said channel to the Marais d'Osier Slough; thence along the middle of said slough to the middle of the channel of the Mississippi River; thence down along the middle of said channel to the place of beginning.

On the first day of March, 1833, a further act was passed, and three commissioners were appointed to select and locate a permanent seat of justice for Rock Island County; and when selected to be called Stephenson, in commemoration of Colonel Benjamin Stephenson; also by said act the citizens of Rock Island County were authorized to elect

on the first Monday of July, 1833, three county commissioners, one sheriff, three justices of the peace (to reside in separate districts), three constables, and one coroner.

An election was held July 5, 1833, at the house of John Barrel, in Farnhamsburg, near the point where the south end of the present south bridge of the Rock Island Railroad is now located.

At this meeting, which was duly held at the time and place appointed, sixty-five citizens were present and took part. Joseph Danforth, Joel Wells, Sr., and William H. Simms served as judges, and Joseph Conway and W. Thompson as clerks. Those honored by election to the county commissionership were: George W. Harlan, John W. Spencer and Colonel George Davenport. Benjamin F. Pike was made sheriff; Levi Wells, coroner; George W. Harlan, J. B. Patterson, and Joe Wells, Jr., justices of the peace; George V. Miller, Huntington Wells, and Edward Corbin, constables. These were the pioneer office-holders of Rock Island County.

The county commissioners met at John Barrel's and organized three days later. Joseph Conway was made clerk and Joseph Wells, Sr., treasurer and assessor. As there was neither county seat or any county building, the commissioners ordered that sessions of court and general elections be held at the house of John Barrel in Farnhamsburg. Asaph Wells and Joel Wells, Jr., were appointed supervisors of roads at the March term, 1834.

At this time the settlers had to depend upon Fort Armstrong for mail facilities. The matter of going to the postoffice became burdensome, as it included ferriage to the island. This expense added to the postage of twenty-five cents on each letter became grievous and the settlers petitioned the postmaster-general for a postoffice to be established at the convenient and useful home of John Barrel. This was done in 1834 and Joseph Conway made postmaster.

In June, 1834, the county was divided for convenience into two voting precincts, these being denominated the "Upper" and the "Lower." The boundaries of the Upper Precinct commenced at the mouth of the Marais d'Osier Slough and continued as far west as Henry McNeal's house. The voters in this territory assembled at the home of Walter Phillips. The remainder of the county formed the Lower Precinct and the voting place was fixed at the house owned by Davenport and Farnham in Farnhamsburg. The first judges appointed in the Upper Precinct were Asaph Wells, James Haskell and Thomas L. Galpin; in the Lower, Joel Wells, Sr., William Brashar and William Carr.

February 12, 1835, the legislature passed an act to establish the county seat of Rock Island County. The commissioners appointed under this law, on the 8th day of June 1835, located and established the town of Stephenson, and the county seat of Rock Island County. The commissioners were George Davenport, John W. Spencer, and John Vanatta.

By order of the county commissioners court, in November, 1835, the records and courts of the county were removed from Farnhamsburg to Stephenson.

The report of the commissioners was made June 8, 1835. This document ordered "that Charles R. Bennet be appointed to survey the town of Stephenson, in Rock Island County, as soon as practible." A further provision of the report was to the effect that "one-third of the town lots be offered

for sale on the 11th of July next, and that the same be published three times in the *St. Louis Republican*, the *Alton Spectator*, the *Northwestern Gazette* and the *Galena Advertiser*."

The town of Stephenson was therefore laid out by Charles R. Bennet and the plat recorded July 10, 1835. This recorded plat bears the certificate of Joseph Conway, clerk to the county commissioners. The town comprised within its modest limits twenty blocks in addition to the one set aside for a public square upon which the county buildings were to be erected and upon which the handsome modern court house now stands. The lots were most generous, as befitted a time when land was cheap. They measured eighty feet front and had a depth of one hundred and fifty feet.

Colonel George Davenport, John W. Spencer and John Vanatta, the county commissioners, entered the town site of Stephenson for the purposes of a county seat, May 11, 1836. Its description was "the northwest fractional quarter of Section 35, containing 61.95 acres." This entry was made in the land office of this district at Galena.

To add to the official dignity of the local courts, the commissioners ordered September 7, 1835, "that Joseph Conway be authorized to get two seals, one for the circuit court of Rock Island County and one for the county commissioners' court of Rock Island County, the device to be a sheaf of wheat and a plow." These courts were removed from Farnhamsburg to the new county seat, Stephenson, in November, 1835.

One incident of these early days, having peculiar interest through later national legislation and civil war was the ordering of the court that a tax of one-half per cent be levied "on slaves or indentured negro or mulatto servants, pleasure carriages, distilleries, horses, mules, cattle, watches and their appendages, household furniture, clocks, wagons, carts, sheep and town lots."

By this listing of slaves among real and personal property with a recognized cash value to be the basis of a percentum tax the ownership of slaves was recognized in this section which later took important and active part in the war which destroyed and discountenanced the entire system of slave ownership. The occasion of the tax levy upon "indentured negro servants" was the holding of slaves by some of the officers at the Fort Armstrong garrison. When these officers were transferred to this post they brought with them these "indentured negro servants." This practice though not sanctioned by the constitution and laws of the State of Illinois was possible under the old territorial laws, enacted when Illinois was a part of the Territory of Indiana. Under these territorial provisions permitting slaves to be introduced into this free soil as "indentured servants," many lived in Illinois. In 1810 there were one hundred and sixty-eight slaves in this state. Ten years later the number had increased to nine hundred and seventeen. Ten years later in 1830 there were seven hundred and forty-six slaves within the borders of Illinois. It was about this time that Dr. Emerson, the surgeon

of the post, brought to this section as his servant, the famous negro, Dred Scott. When Fort Armstrong was evacuated in 1836, Scott went with his master to Fort Snelling in Minnesota and there proceedings were commenced which culminated in the Dred Scott decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, one of the history making incidents of ante-bellum times. Dr. Emerson afterwards made Davenport his home, erecting a handsome residence on East Second Street. There he died and was buried at an early cemetery, now the crossing of Sixth and LeClaire Streets.

In 1829, it is a matter of history that a number of slaves were held for a short time in Rock Island County on a farm just above Moline. Their owner, a southern man, brought them with him when he moved to this section. He brought his holding to the number of seventy-five expecting to give them their freedom and place them upon lands entered in this section, but the colored people preferred to return to their "sunny" southern home, and were allowed to do so after experiencing the rigors of one northern winter.

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## COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

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As attractive, perhaps, as any court house in the states and more remarkable in architecture by far than many, is the handsome county building of Rock Island. Stately and inviting for business, this edifice stands a monument to the progressive spirit of the people, who, keeping pace with the advancement of the times, put it there.

Way back in 1826 a small but well designed building known as "John Barrel's house,"

enclosed within its walls the first gathering of men to transact Rock Island County business. That house stood in Farnhamsburg and besides being the first county court house, served as postoffice and hotel.

The first jail was built in 1836--then the city was the town of Stephenson. John W. Spencer in October, 1835, was awarded the contract to build this jail, which was originally a hewed log building, two stories high

and twenty-two feet square. The brick portion of the structure, afterward added, was built by Daniel Doty in 1839. It stood on lot No. 5 in block No. 15 in the old town until it was sold to a German, who converted the brick portion into a residence.

It was in this building that the murderers of Colonel Davenport were confined, and from which they were led forth to expiate their crimes upon the gallows on the morning of October 29th, 1845. Birch and Baxter were also confined there; the former took a change of venue to Warren County where he broke jail and escaped. Baxter escaped the gallows on the grounds of having no willful intention to take the life of his benefactor; for while he laid the plot for the robbery of Colonel Davenport's house, and planned with the robbers to be ready to enter it on that memorable Fourth of July, he did it thinking that the house would be unoccupied. But in that he was disappointed; all the family had gone to the celebration excepting the colonel. When the robbers entered, they unexpectedly found him in the house and to make sure of escaping with their plunder, murdered him. Baxter was sentenced to the penitentiary for life but was afterwards parolled on the promise that he would leave this part of the country.

The present jail was built in 1857 at an initial cost of \$60,000. Additions of note have since been added. Until this date, 1857, the jail building contained besides the sheriff's office and residence, the offices of circuit clerk, recorder, and the county clerk.

A contact with Jonah H. Case to furnish 200,000 bricks at eight dollars a thousand, was the first step toward the erection of the then, new court house. That was in April, 1836. In June the contract for the building was let to Samuel Smith for \$10,500, to be completed December 1, 1837. The building, a square brick structure, was of two stories with a central cupola. It stood on the square

reserved for that purpose when the town was mapped out and on the land of the present temple of justice.

Immediately after the jail fire in 1882, the people began to agitate a new court house. In January 1883, the board of supervisors decided to erect an office building of sufficient capacity for the offices of county judge, circuit clerk, and county clerk; consequently, a contract was made with S. J. Collins for a one-story brick building, situate on the southeast corner of court house square, at a cost of about \$13,000, the building being completed during the year.

During the time of its construction, office room was obtained in the old court house, and improvised space in the jail building.

As Rock Island County grew it was soon apparent that extensive improvements and additions to the court house would be necessary. This rehabilitation would have cost the county so much money that it seemed to the wise men quite the wrong thing to do, but rather appeal to the people to decide at the polls whether or not it was their desire to bear the expense of a new and modern building. Supervisor Joseph Fitzpatrick of Milan championed the movement. He introduced a resolution at the April term, 1893, calling for a committee to investigate the needs of the county and the probable cost of a new court house, to report to the board at the July meeting, with recommendations as to the time and money necessary to erect such a court house as would compare with the wealth and progress of the county.

This committee composed of Supervisor Joseph Fitzpatrick, A. F. Vinton, James G. Britton and Conrad Schneider made a favorable report and thought \$125,000 would be about the right amount.

An election was held November 6, 1894, and the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$125,000 was carried by the following vote: For the proposition to issue bonds, 3,913; against proposition, 2,174;



majority for said proposition, 1,739. Accordingly the contract was let, Charles J. Larkin winning. Work on the foundation commenced June 26, 1895, and October 1, 1896 the corner stone was laid. The arrangements being in charge of the Old Settlers' Association.

The following men constituted the Court House Committee: Charles L. Walker, chairman; Phil Mitchell, Hon. William Jackson, John Ohlweiler, T. S. Silvis, (deceased), Hon. Charles J. Searle, H. P. Simpson, William McEniry, J. F. Robinson, (deceased), C. F. Lynde, S. J. Collins, S. S. Hull, Hon E. E. Parmenter, (deceased), W. P. Quayle, (deceased). After the formal notice was made, the following orations were delivered by Edward D. Sweeney, C. J. Searle and Judge J. M. Gould at the laying of the corner stone of the new court house, October 1, 1896.

#### THE ORATIONS.

(Orations printed in part.)

EDWARD D. SWEENEY.

*Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens:*

We celebrate today the laying of the corner stone for the new court house, and the occasion is an event which awakens in us emotions of the deepest interest. While it is true that this vast assemblage of citizens are of diverse nationalities, of varied political faiths, and of many religious beliefs, we all stand before this mute block of granite as before the throne of the Eternal on equal footing, no special privilege of nobility or preference places one before the other.

The significance of this great gathering is a tribute of respect to the grand temple of justice planned to rise from this corner stone; and an acknowledgement of homage to the fair Goddess of Justice, who, with sightless eyes and extended hand under the law, holds the balances in which causes between man and man are weighed without partiality or

favor, and determined. The law-abiding people of this great county as by one common impulse, from the various pursuits of life, the farmers from their fields, the merchants from their counters, the mechanics from their shops, the bankers from their desks, and the humblest toilers from their work, have come to witness the simple act of the laying of this stone. It must be that in this there is much that ought to challenge our thoughtful consideration and engage our earnest contemplation for the hour which we are permitted to spend together on this event. It is the transition moment from the old to the new; it is the passing of a great milestone in the career of our county. More than fifty years of history is about to close its record today, and a new book presents itself in which we are to record events, yet in the bosom of the future; to be born each day and each month in the coming years. The thought which occupies everyone here assembled must be in reference to the old court house, its associations of lawyers, and judges, of law suits, of law and its administration, and of officers—and this is my theme.

The early beginnings of all communities are remembered with the greatest of interest and cherished in the fond recollections of those who have participated therein. The County of Rock Island was organized on the 8th day of July, 1833, it having been formerly a part of Jo Daviess County, and the first term of the circuit court was held at the house of John Barrel, beginning on the 28th day of April, 1834. This house stood on the banks of the Sylvan Waters, just west of the Cable residence, and was chosen by the county commissioners as the temporary place of holding the court and the village was called Farnhamsburg. In this house was held the court until abandoned at the September term, 1837; in all six terms of court. At each of these terms there was a grand jury selected and chosen, and in looking over the list of names which compose these grand

juries, I find that Benjamin Goble, the old settler who lays the corner stone today, was a grand juror at three of these terms. It is very evident that they in those days had as good an opinion of Mr. Goble as we of the present day, while we think he is a little too old to do heavy mason work, yet, if called upon, that he would be as willing to serve as a grand juror to punish wrong doers as he was in those early times. I also find the name of our venerable and worthy friend, Michael Hartzell, that he served two terms as a grand juror in vindicating the law in this new-forming community. I also find that John Tindall, the sturdy and prosperous farmer of Bowling Township, and Charles Titterington, the leading farmer of Edgington, the father of our present county treasurer, each served a term as a grand juror in the house of John Barrel; all of these four are now present on this glad day to witness the laying of the corner stone of the new court house, which to them must be an event of more than usual interest. I also find that William Bell was a grand juror at the house of John Barrel at the April term, 1837. This gentleman, who always took such an interest in the affairs of our county and City of Rock Island, and always had a pleasant word and smile for everybody, is absent in body, but we know must be present in mind. He is living with his daughter, Rosa, at Toledo, Ohio, and in a ripe old age.

This was the beginning of our long court dockets of hundreds of cases and terms of court dragging through tedious months, to which has been added the county court, now given common law jurisdiction with a civil and criminal docket, and with its long probate docket upon which are the estates and through which already has passed nearly all the titles to real estate within the limits of the county. The population of the county has grown from 350 to about 45,000; at the time of the organization there was one straggling village on the site of the City of Rock Island and here and

there a settler throughout the county. Now there are six incorporate towns and villages, full of activity and business, and two large commercial cities, teeming with industry, thrift and enterprise, growing in importance and multiplying in wealth; then the taxable property of the county was a few hundred dollars, now it is over eight millions. For a few years there were only two terms of court in each year, but very soon the legislature gave this county three terms of the circuit court, with a probate court in session substantially all the year round.

The number of criminals which come before the courts of our county for correction are surprisingly small. Few counties in the state send a less number to the penitentiary, schools, and the jails for punishment, in accordance with their population than the County of Rock Island. As evidence of how carefully the legal limits are observed among us stands forth the fact that in the affairs of our county, transacted by our honorable board of supervisors, every step of the way in which they proceed being regulated and determined by law, not a legal contest is raised or issue made concerning the new court house, the greatest building ever yet erected in the county, which is rising to its completion and will be built from foundation to dome without the circuit court having taken cognizance of it in any manner whatever except to hear the hammers of the workmen and to finally obey the summons to quarter itself in the magnificent court room; as grand as the old hall of William Rufus, the pride of England for a thousand years; which is being provided for it in accordance with law, there to administer the law for the people "with malice towards none and with charity for all".

Among the names of those who have served their day and stamped upon the events of the times in which they lived, the impress of their character and have gone to their reward, and are in your memories while I speak, are;

Joseph Knox, Ira O. Wilkinson, E. R. Bean, John B. Hawley, Alfred Webster, J. J. Beardsley, Robert W. Smith and Patrick O'Mara.

The oratory of Joseph Knox will always be remembered by those who have heard him. The impression that his oratory made upon my mind when a young man, was that it was close akin to that of Demosthenes. History records that when the issue was before the Athenians whether they would submit to Phillip of Macedon, or resist him with arms, that Demosthenes espoused the cause of war; in this he was opposed by the accomplished orator, Aschines. When Aschines addressed the people they would say, what wonderful eloquence, what a great orator; when Demosthenes would speak they would leap and shout, "let us go and fight Phillip." Mr. Knox was often greeted with similar responses. Judge Wilkinson was a slave to his profession; he never allowed his mind to be occupied by anything which would draw him away from the pure pursuit and practice of the law. He was for many years the mentor of our bar and no young lawyer struggling with legal difficulties ever went to him but he received him kindly and furnished material help without claim of compensation. He did not lay down his work until the hand of disease arrested his powers, and like "Nicanor" he "lay dead in his harness." General Hawley will be remembered as the impetuous, vigilant and aggressive advocate. He was like the plumed knight of Ivry, always to the front in the thickest of the contest, pushing every advantage until victory crowned efforts. Patrick O'Mara was the silver-tongued orator of the bar, young, promising and brilliant; he was a shining mark for the shafts of death, which too soon claimed him for a prey. Time forbids further mention of the merits of the dead, but the best and the highest efforts of those who have gone and those who remain are to be found in the records of the courts, published in the 58

volumes of the Appellate and in the 155 volumes of the Supreme Court reports. It is in this work the real test comes of the lawyer's knowledge of the law and his merits as a lawyer, who has within his grasp and comprehension the highest elements of law.

There have been nineteen different judges who have held court in our county. Richard M. Young was the first judge who ever held court in our county. He came from Galena and was succeeded by Daniel Stone, who came from the same place. Sidney Breese held the second term. He afterwards became a member of the supreme court and served a number of years; was elected to the United States Senate where he served a term, after which he went to the supreme bench again, where he remained until his death in 1878, full of years, honors and good deeds. Benjamin R. Sheldon held the May term. 1849; He afterwards went on the supreme bench, where he remained until his death, a good man and a strong judge. Thomas Ford held the April term of our court in 1836; he afterwards became governor of the state and in his declining days wrote Ford's History of Illinois, the best yet written of the state. Of those who are not now in office, I know of only two who are living—the Honorable J. W. Drury, who was circuit judge from 1856 until 1859 or '60, and the Honorable Arthur A. Smith, who first held court here in 1879 and resigned on account of ill health in the fall of 1894.

Thus far I have said nothing about the offices of county judge and county clerk. The county clerk's office is the great workshop of the county; in that office all the taxes are levied and extended, the judgment for tax sales entered and the record of the sales made and kept. In that office all the business done by the board of supervisors is written up and recorded; aside from this is the probate business of the county, which has grown to be of immense magnitude, and to which is added the records of the

county court, civil and criminal proceedings; within the last few years has passed through the county clerk's office the proceedings for the paving assessments, which has been a stupendous work in itself. To appreciate the volume of the work which is done in this office you must be acquainted with its vastness and its importance. I would be pleased on this occasion to speak of the men who have acted as county clerks, and who have been responsible for and so ably and faithfully discharged their obligations, but time forbids any lengthy notice. Of the ex-county clerks who are still with us, Joseph Conet is the oldest. He will be remembered by all as long as we can remember anybody, as being the most accommodating, courteous and willing public servant that ever served in the court house. The readiness to serve and aid anyone who had business in his office came natural to him; what he did was disrobed of every semblance of affectation or effort. Mr. Conet was succeeded by Major Beardsley, who came into office in the latter part of the war and performed hereculean labors in the interests of the widows and orphans of the soldiers who died or had fallen in battle during the Rebellion, whom he ever carried on his heart. The accounts kept in the book of remembrance by him, "who neither slumbers or sleeps" will show a great credit to the major's account for the disinterested and patriotic work of these years. John V. Cook succeeded the major and his memory is embalmed in the hearts of all who knew him; he was succeeded by Mr. Donaldson, whose efficiency and reliability were not excelled by any one. Colonel Hjalmar Kohler, the present incumbent needs no commendation from me, his work shows for itself and his manner and demeanor in office are sufficient to win for him the highest respect and regard.

Of the ex-probate justices and county judges there are only two living today, Captain T. J. Robinson, who acted as associate

justice, with John W. Spencer as judge in 1849, and J. M. Gould who takes part in the exercises of this occasion, who was county judge in 1854 to 1857. There has been no more responsible position in our county than that of looking after the trusts in the hands of executors, administrators and guardians, and faithfully have these trust estates been guarded and protected by our county judges. The present incumbent, the Honorable Lucian Adams, has grown gray in the service of these trusts and no one has ever been allowed to suffer in his hands.

Three members of Congress have been sent from our County. The Honorable John B. Hawley, the Honorable William H. Gest and the Honorable Benjamin Cable. We are indebted to these gentlemen for great services in securing appropriations for the National armory on the Island, for the great bridge across the Mississippi River, the Moline dam, the viaduct, the new government building now being erected, and the Hennepin Canal.

The soldiers of Illinois were foremost at Donaldson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and in Sherman's march to the sea. General Sherman was their great leader in that famous march, but it is said if the old hero had fallen by the way, the boys would have gone right on to the sea. The Illinois soldiers brought home from the fields of the south three hundred battle flags taken from the enemy, and it was an Illinois flag that floated over the advance guard of the soldiers who first marched into Richmond with President Lincoln at their head, in April, 1865. All honor to the old soldiers and love and charity to all their kith and kin.

Solomon's Temple surpassed all former ones in its glory and grandeur, but in following years there was erected a second temple, and the glory of the latter house exceeded the former. The days of the early pioneers were full of noble deeds, efforts and struggles, around which a halo of heroism lingers, while



the names of the men and women who took part in the stirring events of those days are held in tender remembrance by their descendants and the people of today. No state in the Union excels Illinois in the race of noble pioneers who wrought out of the broad untracked and untilled prairies the beginnings of the greatest agricultural state of the Mississippi valley, and which laid the foundations of greatest and grandest commonwealth of the Union, and no county in all of the one hundred and two in the state can boast of a nobler band of early settlers than can our County. The limit line of pioneer and old settlers' life is drawn at the year 1850 and all time subsequent is counted out. Let due honor and credit be given to the early settlers and old pioneers and to all who have helped in the early efforts to lay the base of the institutions of which we are so proud today and to which we can point with becoming pride; but no one will think of comparing what has been accomplished in the advancements of civilization since the date of the limit with what has gone before.

In 1850 the City of Rock Island had been organized only one year and was a municipal infant, and Moline, now the proud city of factories, schools and churches, was still a village, and outside of these there was not an organized town or village in the county; the iron horse had never sounded his sonorous tones on the shores of the Father of Waters; the great plow factories of the Twin Cities were only in the prophecies of the dim future; the magnificent water works, now sending flowing water through every street and into every house, were unthought of; paved streets, which have come to us within the last eight years, and which make our cities the rivals of those in the old world of a century's growth, were not even in the dreams of the oldest inhabitant; while every man was his own letter carrier, express messenger and "telephone girl." Never since the days when Adam and Eve went forth from the

Garden of Eden, unsandaled and uncovered, was human nature so well clothed, so well fed, so well housed and surrounded with the conveniences and luxuries of life, as today; we are all pleased to hear the old settlers talk of the "good old times," and never tire of hearing rehearsed the events of early pioneer life; but we who did not live in these "good old times" may be excused for speaking of the "good new times."

Today the forces of the "good old times" and the forces of the "good new times" meet on this common platform to lay the corner stone of the new court house and blend without rivalry in a united effort for the common weal.

At the April term, A. D., 1893, of the board of supervisors, F. M. Sinnet, Esq., was elected chairman, and in his address to the board, returning thanks for his election, among other things he said that the necessity existed for the erection of a new court house, and he believed that the times were propitious for its erection. During this session of the board, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Esq., then supervisor from Black Hawk, came to the office of Sweeney & Walker and talked to the same effect, and Mr. C. L. Walker prepared resolutions setting forth that the necessity existed for a new court house and that the times were propitious for the building of the same. The resolutions were delivered to Mr. Fitzpatrick who introduced them in the board then in session and they were adopted. The resolutions, among other things, provided for the appointment of a committee to report on the feasibility of the project at the next meeting in July.

In the meantime Charles J. Searle, our young and vigorous state's attorney, with his accustomed zeal and enthusiasm, took hold of the work and put the report of the committee in shape, which was presented at the next session of the board and adopted, and the cause of the new court house was squarely before the people. The press, which

has always been a great factor in the pushing forward of the welfare of the county in all channels, took hold and advocated the enterprise, the people with great unanimity seconded the move and the board of supervisors, pushed on until the building of the new court house became a fixed fact.

Messrs. Larkin and Collins and the Rock Island mechanics have completed a creditable foundation—one strong enough to sustain the National Capitol—from which will rise a building worthy of our county and the times in which we live.

CHARLES J. SEARLE.

*Mr. President, Citizens of Rock Island County,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I feel highly flattered at being accorded the privilege of taking part in the important ceremony of laying the corner stone of your new "Temple of Justice," and while the nature of a statistical paper for permanent preservation, requires me to indulge in a greater use of statistics than is conducive to present any temporary interest, I have striven, in the very limited time I have had to bestow upon the task, to cull out of the records and traditions of the county such statistical information as in my opinion would most interest those present, as well as future inhabitants of the county, to whose curious gaze the contents of this corner stone will be revealed, perhaps a century from now.

My endeavor shall be to confine myself almost exclusively to matters of local interest, but no historical or other information concerning Rock Island County would be complete without taking somewhat into consideration the history and growth of our country as a whole.

The records of the world's history disclose the rise and fall of many great and prosperous nations, but history never recorded such great, rapid, and, we hope, enduring, progress of a people as has been witnessed in the United States since its formation. Pre-

eminently a peaceful nation, our area has grown from 827,844 square miles in 1789, to 3,603,844 square miles in 1895, and that too, mostly by peaceful conquest. Our population has grown from 3,929,214 in 1790, to 62,622,250 in 1890. Under the benign influence of the free institutions handed down to us by our illustrious forefathers, from a few scattered settlements, skirting along the Atlantic seaboard, we have developed into a mighty nation. A nation whose institutions are not beyond improvement, but in the main, filled with a happy, prosperous people. A nation of inestimable wealth. A highly civilized nation, filled with churches, schools and libraries. A nation making unprecedented strides in industry, art, science and education. A nation that is indeed the "land of the free and the home of the brave." A nation of the utmost possibilities of resources and development, and destined, I hope, to be during all time, the greatest, grandest nation the world ever saw.

Illinois, our beloved state, taking its name from the Indian word, "Illini," signifying "Superior Men," has, in the short space of seventy-seven years, from its admission in 1818, grown to be a mighty empire of 3,826,351 people. The virgin soil of her wonderful prairies, the wealth of her primeval forests and the hidden treasures of her mines, have made her the gem of that great galaxy of states known as the "Great Northwest," which has no equal in fertility, resources and possibilities of development on the face of the earth.

Great as our National and State development have been, Rock Island County has kept pace with our common country; and that, too, notwithstanding the fact that we came so comparatively late in the order of settlement. Marquette and Joliet were likely the first white persons to set eyes on the then wild, beautiful and romantic scenery of Rock Island County, at that time the home of the Indian and the buffalo, in the year 1673. The

first white settler was Colonel George Davenport, who located, with his family, on the beautiful island in the Mississippi River between here and Davenport in 1816, a time within the memory of quite a number of the grand old patriarchs within the sound of my voice. Little did the unbroken wilderness surrounding that solitary habitation, distant hundreds of miles from any other, forbode the marvelous development that has taken place here since its erection. The first house erected on the main shore of our county was by Colonel George Davenport and Russell Farnham, in the eastern part of our present city. The first white child born in this vicinity was George Davenport, in 1817. The first lands that were entered were entered October 19, 1829, by Colonel George Davenport and Russell Farnham, the government land office then being at Galena, Illinois. The first marriage was that of James L. Burtis to Angeline Beardsley, in 1833. In 1805 for the first time the flag of the Union proudly waved over Rock Island County's present domain, is beautiful field of blue then only contained a constellation of seventeen stars instead of forty-five, as now.

The early settlement was slow, for, while nature was kind and presented few obstacles to settlement, the savage and treacherous Indian did. It required the Black Hawk War of 1832, that had for battle ground the beautiful prairies and unbroken forests of Rock Island County, to drive the able and revengeful Black Hawk and his tribe beyond the Mississippi, to make way for the advancing tide of settlement and civilization.

It was not till 1833, that the inhabitants had increased sufficiently to justify the legislative act of that year, providing for the organization of the county, and even then the total vote of the county was only sixty-five. The first seat of justice was established in the same year, at John Barrel's house, in what was then called Farnhamsburg, now a part of the City of Rock Island. In 1835

the seat of justice was changed by commissioners appointed by an act of the legislature, to the present site, in what was then called the town of Stephenson. Richard M. Young was the first judge to preside over the circuit court, Joseph Conway was the clerk, Benjamin F. Pike, sheriff; Thomas Ford, state's attorney, and Joel Wells the foreman of the grand jury. Lists of the jurors, witnesses and parties to suits, disclose the names of the ancestors of a great many of our present citizens, many of whom are prominently known, but which my limited time will not permit me to give. The circuit then including Rock Island County was known as the Fifth Judicial Circuit, and included the counties of Cook, LaSalle, Putnam, Peoria, Fulton, Schuyler, Adams, Hancock, McDonough, Knox, Warren, Jo Daviess, Mercer and Henry. The first attorneys at the bar were Ford, Turney, Smith, Maxwell, Strode, Walker and Mills; these were soon followed by such well remembered characters as Knox, Drury and Wilkinson. The first hotel, tavern as they were then called, was opened in 1833, belonging to Jonah H. Case, whose family has ever since been prominent in the county. Private schools were opened at an early date, and free schools were established in 1856. The first church (Methodist Episcopal) was built in 1844; the first library opened in 1855, and the first newspaper, the *Rock Island Banner* and *Stephenson Gazette* was started in 1839.

The City of Rock Island, including the towns of Stephenson and Farnhamsburg, and outlying additions, was organized in 1841. What was known as "Rock Island Mills" was in 1843 organized into the beautiful City of Moline, "the city of mills." Camden, afterwards "Camden Mills" and now Milan, was laid out in 1843; Port Byron, in 1836; Cordova, in 1837; Hampton, in 1834; Rapid City, in 1833; Coal Valley, in 1856; Andalusia, in 1859; Edgington, in 1843, and Reynolds, in 1876.

The assessed valuation of the county in 1833, immediately after its organization was so low that the taxes collected only amounted to the sum of \$53.72½, so that it can be readily seen that the county's affairs did not permit any great defalcations on the part of the county officials. The population of the county in 1840, at the time of the first census, was 2,610 souls.

But few in numbers, and poor though they then were, the people of the county in 1835, with commendable public spirit and ambition, and with a realization of the future needs of the county, resolved to build a court house. They let the contract for \$10,500, furnishing the brick themselves at a cost of \$1,600, making a total cost of \$12,100 at the time of the acceptance of the completed building in 1838. Humble as it now seems, it was then a grand structure, one of the finest buildings in the state, and was the pride of the city and county for years. Its erection had entailed an expenditure of perhaps not less than \$10 for every man, woman and child in the county, which in view of the poverty of the people and the scarcity of money then in circulation, was indeed an evidence of the greatest public spirit; an amount of money harder to raise then than \$1,000,000 would be now by the people of this county. Could the walls of the old building relate the scenes they have witnessed, what a story they could tell. From it have issued more than 17,000 official licenses, authorizing the solemn, God ordained rites of matrimony; and there we find the sad record of thousands of deaths; records of joy and happiness on the one hand, and of grief and sorrow on the other. There are recorded the story of elections, the history of the rise and fall of many an ambition. There are preserved the evidences of the titles of the people to their homes and their belongings; the administration of the estate of departed loved ones; the financial records of the county; the enlistment of the heroic volunteer for the preservation of our National

life, and his honorable discharge; in the record of the 11,697 civil causes that have been recorded on the dockets of the circuit court, we have a record of conquest and defeat, justice and injustice, poverty and wealth, anxiety and exultation, hope and fear. The criminal records, disclosing 4,554 cases, tell us a tale of injustice, hate, malice, revenge, crime in all its hideous forms, from the most trivial offenses, to robbery, rape and murder. If its walls would reverberate the echoes it has heard and flash upon our vision the sights it has seen, what sights we would indeed behold, what sounds we would hear! We would see every phase of human character, good and bad. We would witness the play of every emotion of the human mind and heart. We would see the joyous, hopeful bride, the grief stricken mother; we would see the anxious, uplifted faces of litigants as they scrutinized the jury, or waited with bated breath for the decision of the judge; we would hear the exultant, victorious laugh of the victor, and the heart-broken sobs of the convicted criminal, his relatives and friends; we would see many a fierce combat between giants at the bar; we would be startled at their audacity; we would wonder at their display of earnestness and passion; we would be thrilled by their eloquence as they pleaded for the property, liberty and lives of their clients; we would anxiously await the verdict of the jury; and at last we would listen to the solemn sentence of the upright judge. But the old building has long been inadequate.

From a population of 2,610 in 1840 we now number nearly 50,000 souls. Instead of two marriages on record as in 1833, last year we had 390. To keep abreast of the times and to meet the demands of the county, the people have elected to build this fine building.

On the 20th day of June, 1895, the contract for its construction was let for \$112,201. According to the contract, it is to be fully completed by November 1, 1896. From all



indications, it will be a grand and stately structure, an ornament, and the pride of the county for generations to come, and commensurate with the needs and demands of the county. It will perhaps remain the seat of justice of the county for a century. In it will be repeated, only on a large scale and in a more multifarious form, the history of the old court house. In it the county's affairs will be hereafter conducted, justice will be administered, rights secured, guilt punished, innocence vindicated; the constitutional rights of life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness conserved. The time is not far distant when court will have to be held throughout the year; yes, when the court will have to be held in sections, for this court house will still be in use when this county will have a population of 150,000 people or more.

Well may the people of Rock Island County anticipate the era of wonderful increase of population, wealth and progress we are just now fairly entering upon, by the erection of this grand building; for second to none in natural resources, industry and thrift, we will be in the van of enterprise and progress.

J. M. GOULD.

*Mr. Chairman, Friends and Fellow Citizens;*

Having been informed that the board of supervisors had requested that the ceremony and laying of the corner stone of the new court house should be by the Old Settlers' Association of the county, and that I had been requested to make some remarks upon the occasion, I deem it will be proper to do so in a sort of historical line, and will say that I will not trespass upon your time with a long harangue.

This county was in early times a part of the present County of Pike, which extended north to the state line; afterwards embraced in what is now Jo Daviess County. The first court in this county was held in a log house, as I am informed, located near where

the residence of Hon. Benjamin T. Cable stands, the town being named Stephenson.

On the 18th day of November, 1848, I arrived in the village of Moline, to become a resident of the county, being a member of the firm of Deere, Tate & Gould, for manufacturing farming implements, Messrs. Deere & Tate being the practical members. My department was the financial. I opened and kept the first set of account books, by double entry, in the county, learning at the time that the system was not used in Scott County, Iowa. We did not have any banking facilities in either of the three towns. Cook & Sargent, of Davenport, occasionally, could sell us bills of exchange upon St. Louis, and sometimes New York, but not often upon the latter named city. Our business away from here was generally with St. Louis, as our only transportation facilities, except by wagon to Chicago, were by the river. Our remittances were usually made in the season of navigation by the captains or clerks of the steamboats. There were no regular paydays for our employes, and we seldom paid much money to them, except upon final settlement, when they were either discharged or resigned. We gave orders upon merchants with whom we could arrange for credit, in the three towns for such goods as were needed, and usually boarded our single men with parties whom we could supply, in our dealings with farmers, such articles as they could use, namely: vegetables, meat, fuel, etc. We had a daily mail coach to and from Chicago and St. Louis, which, in the winter, was the only means of public communication with other towns. Letters for Chicago and St. Louis were sent by stage, which followed the river to Albany, then via Union Grove, now Morrison, Dixon and thence for St. Louis via Peoria and zig-zag to destination, requiring from five to seven days to get replies to their letters sent to St. Louis, and four or five days to Chicago. At that time, and until about 1850 to 1853, there were four saw mills, one grist and one

merchant flouring mill, one foundry and machine shop, and one woodenware factory in Moline; one boat yard and marine ways, and one saw mill in Rock Island. Davenport had no manufacturing industry, I think, until about 1854. Previous to 1849 the county business in every county in the state was transacted by a board of county commissioners composed of three members, and on account of the prevailing custom of not providing by a proper assessment of taxation to pay claims against this county the warrants were from 10 to 45 and 50 per cent below par; the discount being based upon the proximity to, or from the time, they could be used in payment of taxes, and I think that every other county's finances were about in the same condition.

At one session, the records of which I saw, and probably the same was true of others of the board, claims were allowed merchants for supplies for paupers and for other purposes. Probably claimants in making prices for such supplies, included a high profit, knowing warrants would be issued upon a treasury that had no funds, and in addition persuaded the board to add one hundred per cent to the claim, and then inserted these words: "Double for depreciation of county orders, and a warrant for twice the sum issued." Under the revised constitution of 1848, the law abolishing the county commissioners' court, and creating what was termed a county court in 1849, with one county judge and two associate justices of the peace, was enacted. At the first election under the new law, John W. Spencer was first judge, and Thomas J. Robinson and James Weaverling associates, were elected; the three persons, at regular quarterly sessions of the board in December, March, June and September in each year, and at as many special sessions as were necessary, attended to all the county business, the same as is now transacted by our board of supervisors; the probate matters were adjudicated by the county judge at

twelve sessions, upon the third Monday at each quarter, and the first Monday of the other eight months, holding each session as long as circumstances required and special sessions if needed; the fees were \$2.50 each per day for actual time spent for the county. Judge Spencer resigned at the end of three years, and William Bailey was elected to serve the remainder of the term. In November, 1853, I was elected county judge. George E. Holmes, of Port Byron, and John Kistler, of Buffalo Prairie, were my associates—two gentlemen several years my seniors. We accepted the offices and qualified. I think it was at our first session for business—if not the first it was not later than the second—which was in the southwest corner room of the present court house, then occupied by the county clerk, and, I think, was the sheriff's quarters also. The next room north was the county assessor's and treasurer's office; the southeast corner room, which was one-half of the present supervisor's room, was occupied by the circuit clerk and ex-officio recorder, who was Major Frazier Wilson; the next room north, upon the east side, was rented to George W. Pleasants (now Judge Pleasants) and Henderson, lawyers. We discovered that the records of the county were in a very unsafe condition respecting the risk of fire, all being in wooden cases in the rooms named, and concluded that the matter was of so much importance that a building must be erected which would be nearly fireproof, and having only a very poor substitute of a jail, would combine the two departments under one roof. We had no money and county warrants were so much below par that it was utterly impossible to use them, and the only course to pursue was to get a special law passed, which could be done at that period, permitting the issue of bonds for \$20,000 which we succeeded in accomplishing and sold them at par as they bore interest at ten per cent. We procured the erection

of the present jail with several offices. Now we have come to our court house beautiful, or at least the foundation.

#### THE COMPLETED NEW COURT HOUSE OF 1897.

A detailed description of the exterior of the new court house does not seem necessary; it stands out with such grandeur. A typical temple of justice. The finely proportioned dome, the four turrets, and two pavilions, most materially add to the structure. Its dimensions are one hundred and fifty feet long, fifty feet wide, with extended pavilions and turrets on the two sides. The main structure is sixty feet high, the central dome towering to a height of one hundred and fifty feet. The magnificent, strong and stable presentation of the interior, including the marble work, wood work, painting, tile flooring, bronze, iron, fresco and other ornamental work, harmonize; all reflecting great credit on the architects, Gunn and Curtis; Charles J. Larkin, the contractor, and Stephen J. Collins, superintendent.

In the basement is the engine room, fans, steam pipes, engineer's work room, and store room for old time files and records. The boiler room is in a separate brick building in the rear of the jail building, a tunnel running from the boiler room, to the engine room of the court house. On the first floor are grouped the offices of the sheriff, the master in chancery, the coroner, the janitor, the county superintendent of schools, ladies' waiting room, the county surveyor, public and ladies' lavatories, and waiting rooms. Broad stairways lead to the upper floors, also a good elevator.

On the second floor are the offices of county judge, circuit clerk, county clerk, county treasurer, also county court room and supervisors' room. The circuit and county clerks' offices have large, well lighted, roomy vaults adjoining, fitted with metallic furnishings.

On the third floor circuit court room, judge's private room, court stenographer's

rooms, court library room, clerk of the court room, rooms for state's attorney (private and reception), jury rooms, and witness rooms. On the fourth floor is the Memorial Hall designed for the Grand Army of the Republic members, and other loyal societies. The furnishings throughout all the offices are exceedingly rich, tasty, and substantial.

The following material was used in its construction: Over 2,000 perch of LeClaire stone was used in the foundation, which is laid on rock foundation, with one foot of rock concrete on the bottom to fill holes and level off. The base or water table is of Carthage, Mo., granite; the die and sill course of dressed blue Bedford stone. The first and second stories of rock-faced buff Bedford stone and the two upper stories of sand-rubbed buff Bedford. Eighteen thousand cubic feet of stone was used above the foundations; 360 tons of iron beams in the buildings, 120 tons of steel was used in the construction of the tower, and about eighty tons of steel was used in the ornamental work. One million six hundred thousand hard brick was purchased and used in the structure; eighty tons of copper for cornices and roofing; 40,000 square feet fire proofing for arches; 15,000 square feet of plain plastering, besides a large amount of ornamental stucco work; 30,000 feet of maple flooring, together with 11,000 square feet Mosaic flooring; 7,500 feet Tennessee marble wainscoting.

The floors contain 2,250,000 pieces of marble. Four nations contribute to the floor; black marble from Belgium, red from France, white from Italy, and pink from Tennessee.

The board of supervisors, through their broad and liberal spirit, together with the strenuous and faithful efforts of the citizens' committee brought about the result of giving the county the handsome building we have. The dedication ceremonies occurred March 31, 1897, and were unusually prominent, the

new court house being opened for inspection, the circuit court in session in the old court house, adjourning to the new court house for the dedication ceremonies, and occupancy by the court, and the presentation by the chairman of the board of supervisors of the keys of the new building to the sheriff of the county.

The following addresses were made by William Jackson and Charles L. Walker, the sentiment of which toward the bench and the bar were exceptionally complimentary.

ADDRESS BY HON. WILLIAM J. JACKSON.

*May it please the Court:*

I desire to make a motion for the adjournment of this court, but preliminary thereto I wish to say a few words, which I hope may be deemed appropriate to this occasion and the circumstances under which this court is now in session.

This day is an interesting one to the members of this bar and the people of this county. We have just withdrawn forever from a forum that for more than sixty years has stood in the midst of the people, as the visible place or temple where the law has been administered, under which the people have lived, and under its benign and protecting influence, have prospered. It has been sacred to the people, because therein the sovereignty of the law was asserted, a sovereignty that assumed the form of organized law, which has always commanded, and still commands, the fealty and respect of the citizens of Rock Island County.

In this beautiful edifice in which we are now assembled, we are to continue the administration of public justice, to decide under the forms of law and in a spirit of impartiality, so far as it can be done by human agencies, the claims of contending litigants, and to preserve, protect, and maintain the rights of the state, and the individual rights and interests of the people, collectively and respectively.

Almost sixty-four years have passed since the first session of this circuit court, which, on the 28th day of April, 1834, was held at the plain and unpretentious log and frame house of John Barrel, in the eastern part of this city, Judge Richard M. Young presiding. The machinery of justice, thus set in motion, was started under very humble circumstances. The house of John Barrel contained no paneled ceilings, frescoed walls, or marble wainscoting. There was harmony and uniformity of design, finish and color, both in the interior and exterior, yet it was more in keeping with nature, than art; yet the decrees of that court, from that plain forum, were recognized and regarded by the people, the pushing, hardy, tolerant and hopeful pioneers of that day, who had pushed ahead into this country, then the far west, to found for themselves and the generations to come after them, a local government.

The architectural style, beauty and finish of this edifice especially interests the members of this bar. The years of the past have come and gone; the administration of the law and the business of the courts has not been done in marble halls, yet it has been well done. At no time have the people considered it necessary to assume or take the administration of the law out of the regular channels; they have always entrusted it to the direction of the lawfully constituted authorities.

There is not, at this bar today, a lawyer that connects us with the beginning of our judicial existence, but few links, however, intervene between this assemblage today and the very beginning. This, however, can only be said of the lawyers. We have with us today in this room, citizens of advanced years, who were active citizens of this county in the years of the beginning; who helped to lay, firm and deep, the foundation of law and order in this county, and who can, and do, today, rejoice that the work was so well done and has been so well maintained. To emphasize this present thought, we would



pray that in the conduct and heart of the future people of this county, there shall dwell that sense of the dignity and supremacy of the law that so signally characterized the fathers.

The log house of John Barrel was soon superseded by the brick court house, to which we have this day bidden adieu, and while we contemplate the grandeur of the present edifice, and consider the burden, voluntarily imposed by the people to provide for its construction, we must not forget that the pioneers of this county, according to their numbers and ability, assumed an equal burden to provide the court house that we have just abandoned, which, in the day of its completion, was the pride of this part of the northwest.

The construction of this court house in which we are now met, is not the result of a protracted effort, first suggested in the board of supervisors in April, 1893, by Supervisor Joseph Fitzpatrick, the means to erect provided by the people, by vote in 1894, the foundation stone laid in October, 1895; and completed for dedication in March, 1897.

The necessity for a new court of justice was promptly recognized by the honorable board of supervisors, although the building of a new structure involved increased taxation, and added to existing burdens, yet the people of this county, by their votes, declared that the time had come when the character and dignity of the county, in connection with its executive and judicial departments, demanded a temple of justice that would truly represent the progress, culture and improved artistic taste of the present. The people decreed; it has been done.

We look around, and beyond, and behold this edifice, beautiful in design, symmetrical in proportion; in its architecture the designer lives, and will continue to live to tell the onlooker how, in his brain, there was planted that quality of art and artistic appreciation

of form, color, quality and proportion, that could conceive and plan this building, about which there can be only one expression, "How beautiful!"

Not only does the building display the skill and artistic talent of the designer, but also the skill of the more humble craftsman, who, by cunning manipulation, mechanical conception and execution could, and has, so worthily and successfully fashioned and built that which the artist in beauty designed.

This court house stands as a monument to the good taste, broad and liberal spirit of the board of supervisors of this county, who, notwithstanding many adverse and discouraging criticisms, yet, believing that the people of Rock Island County were worthy of a structure that should represent the intelligence and energy of the people, had the courage and determination to build this building. For the push, energy and official integrity that has brought the work to so successful a termination, we will today award to the board of supervisors that measure of credit, recognition and praise that is their due.

We should not, at this time, when speaking of the means and forces that insured the successful completion of the court house, forget the faithful contractor, and the superintendent, who have so well performed their labors, and won for themselves the recognition of their fellow citizens, who will award to them the credit of having performed their work with signal ability and merited tribute of praise.

The board of supervisors have ordered that on the 31st day of March, 1897, the people should be invited into this public edifice, to cordially and quietly enjoy and contemplate this public enterprise so auspiciously completed; hence we are now surrounded with a busy, earnest throng of citizens, who are this day, with music attending, treading the broad aisles of this court house, enjoying the delight of its beauty, and expressing by

their attendance their interest in the work that was so worthily conceived, and has been so successfully completed.

And now, in the presence of this court and the people, what shall be further said on this occasion? We have built this house, doomed and cupoloed, principally with iron, stone and marble, not only because we wanted to build, but to build with such form and grace that it should stand in the midst of the people as a public recognition of the supremacy and majesty of the law; the law, not as a shifting and uncertain influence to be changed by the casting of a die, but a controlling moral and political force, that stands guard by day and by night, shielding and protecting all classes alike; not only the house of luxury and refinement, but an all powerful influence encircling and protecting the cabin of the poor; a law so potent that it tempers the power of the executive, as well as the will of the people; the limitations of the law being its safety, its adaptation to all being its strength and beauty. The majesty of its influence was well illustrated in the celebrated speech of Earl Chatham, in the British Parliament, "The poorest man in his cottage may bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown; it may be frail, its roof may shake, the storm may enter it, but the King of England cannot enter it,—all his power dares not cross the threshold of that ruined tenement."

When the citizen surveys this public structure, he can not only enjoy the grandeur of its appearance, but the mental fact that it is the monument of a free people, guided and inspired by wise and just laws, and intent upon the enforcement of them; laws to be obeyed until repealed; and if, in the course of time, experience demands a change to meet new conditions, then shall the change be made, not by wilful disregard of existing enactments, but by legal and constitutional methods, for only by such methods, and under such conditions, shall the "govern-

ment of the people, by the people, and for the people," survive, and not perish from the earth.

I am loath to close my remarks without a few words to my associates at this bar.

The sixty-four years of the judicial life of this court is behind us. Many of us passed the summit; what we have done, or left undone, the world knows. The personal and mental characteristics that have marked our lives and actions during the years of the past will probably remain unchanged to the end. If our lives have not been well rounded out by upright conduct and moral force, the fault has been with ourselves. Happy for us if our personal characters have so impressed our fellows that they are willing to concede that our lives have been well spent.

But there are at this bar, at this time more than at any former period of its history, many young men of varied talents, who will be the leaders of the future. It is an interesting and important question to ask what will be their position in this court, and what estimate their fellow citizens will place upon them. Will they come and plead at this bar only for personal glory, that men may praise their ingenuity and skill as lawyers? Will they simply estimate their personal importance by their gains, without reference to the means and instrumentalities used to command these gains, or will the lawyers of the future at this bar be men whose highest aim shall be so to discharge the varied and exacting duties of the profession, and their personal duties to their fellow practitioners, that inquiry will not be necessary to find out to what plane of public estimation they have attained,—but the constant, truthful, kind and even tenor of their professional conduct shall lead men to a prompt, instant and cordial recognition of their personal worth. I hope this may be the standard of the lawyers of this county.

A word to the judges of this court. I speak after an experience of thirty-six years; during

those years I have had the honor to appear before all the judges that have presided in the circuit and county courts. Considering the arduous and delicate duties that a judge has to perform, restraining the impetuous lawyer, client or witness, instructing and encouraging the timid and independent, deciding delicate and intricate legal questions, affirmed by positive counsel and questioned by others equally positive; and yet, so deciding the questions involved that the decision shall carry with it the respect of all,—duties of this kind would appear to be so difficult that complaint would seem to be the rule; yet this bar, and the people of this county have a right, and it is their duty to accord to the judges now living and to the memory of those departed, that the work of the judiciary has been well and faithfully done; and the kindly and earnest expression of good feeling of the lawyers of this county towards the judges is a just and proper tribute to the bench of the courts of this county. If, in the future, another court house shall supplant the beautiful one in which we are now gathered, and it is then said about the judiciary, as it can now be said, that the bench has been an inspiration and kindly assistance to the bar, the years of the future in that regard will be years of pleasant association and reciprocated kindnesses.

And now, if the court please, in view of the public interest now manifested in this court house dedication, and to enable the judges, lawyers and officers of this court to join with their fellow citizens in this gathering of the people, I move that this court do now adjourn.

#### C. L. WALKER'S ADDRESS.

*May it please your Honors:*

My name is not mentioned in the program, nor is the subject which I wish to submit to your honors referred to therein. Yet as the matter is germane to the proceedings of the day, I have been requested by the committee

in charge of the exercises to address your honors thereon, and I therefore beg a moment's indulgence before your honors shall pass upon the motion to adjourn.

Thereupon His Honor Judge J. Glenn, presiding, granted the request.

What I shall say will be on behalf of the citizens' court house committee of Rock Island and I have been requested first to give the history of its organization and of the work of this committee.

Prior to October, 1894, the court house project seemed to be regarded favorably by the people, but about this time an undercurrent of opposition developed and a series of articles appeared in some of the papers outside of this city, urging the voters to vote against the building of a new court house, and the issuing of the \$125,000 of bonds, both on account of the increased taxation and because the time was inopportune.

Owing to these conditions it seemed necessary that some systematic and united efforts be put forth to overcome these objections and to stimulate an active sentiment in favor of the project.

To this end some of those in favor of building the new court house determined to organize a committee to formulate means and measures to secure it.

Accordingly early in October a meeting was called at the office of State's Attorney Searle to consider the matter. Some twenty citizens attended and T. J. Robinson was elected chairman, and C. J. Searle secretary. After a full discussion of the situation a committee was appointed to report at a subsequent meeting. This meeting was held within a few days thereafter, and a sub-committee of fourteen was selected which should have full charge, and take such action as should seem advisable to secure favorable action by the voters.

This sub-committee consisted of T. S. Silvis, E. E. Parmenter, William McEniry,

S. S. Hull, C. F. Lynde, Phil Mitchell, William Jackson, C. J. Searle, H. P. Simpson, W. P. Quayle, J. F. Robinson, John Ohlweiler, S. J. Collins and myself. This committee organized by electing H. P. Simpson secretary and myself chairman, and as thus organized began work.

Of this committee C. F. Lynde, J. F. Robinson and John Ohlweiler were appointed a committee to raise the necessary funds, and secured subscriptions from seventy-two citizens, of sums ranging from fifty cents to fifty dollars, aggregating six hundred and seventy-two dollars.

The committee decided to make a complete canvass of each ward in this city by personal interview of the voters and see that a full vote was polled; and at the same time send from one to three men into each township in the county, to enlist the efforts of as many influential men of the township as possible, and employ one or more suitable men in the township to continue the work until the polls closed.

The committee also prepared and printed literature consisting of original matter, extracts from the "opposition articles" with appropriate suggestions and distributed them throughout the county attempting to place pamphlets in the hands of every doubtful voter; enlisted the active support of friendly papers, and thus aroused the friends of the project, turned the tide of disaffection and

carried the propositions by 1,739 majority.

The committee therefore believes that its work was timely and thorough and made victory possible.

Of the money collected, \$553.67 was devoted to the above purposes, leaving a balance of \$118.33 in the treasury. The board of supervisors delegated the honor of laying the corner stone to the Old Settlers' Association, but refused to appropriate money sufficient to defray the necessary expenses of the exercises, and that society being without funds our committee appropriated \$47.94 to cover this deficit.

After paying these bills there still remained \$70.39 in the treasury, and after thoughtful consideration the committee concluded that it would be appropriate and wise to apply the balance towards the purchase of some suitable memorial to be placed in the building, and finally decided to purchase and have hung in this court room portraits of all the chief justices of the United States Supreme Court than whom the names of no abler judges adorn the pages of judicial action.

This has been done and I now have the honor and pleasure of presenting to this court, on behalf of the seventy-two subscribers to the fund, the portraits which you now see upon the walls of this room, and the committee trust they will be accepted by your honors as suitable appointments to this beautiful temple of justice and right.



## COURT, BENCH AND BAR

WILLIAM JACKSON

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The first term of the Circuit Court of Rock Island County was held April 28, 1834, in the house of John Barrel in Farnhamsburg, Richard M. Young presiding Judge.

Farnhamsburg was located on the bank of the Mississippi River, in the east part of the City of Rock Island, a short distance west of the residence of the Hon. Ben T. Cable. The first house built on the present site of the City of Rock Island, then Farnhamsburg, was a log house built by Colonel George Davenport and one Russell Farnham, who was engaged in business with Colonel Davenport. This log house was afterwards enlarged and kept as a hotel by John Barrel, a Virginian. In November, 1835, the records and Court were removed from the house of John Barrel to Stephenson. Under an act of the Legislature of March 31, 1819, the State of Illinois was divided into four judicial circuits. The Judges of the Supreme Court of the State held the Circuit Courts. The Circuit Courts are Courts of general jurisdiction.

The County Commissioners Court was established March 22, 1819. It had jurisdiction throughout the County in revenue matters, county tax, licenses, and other public business. Three Judges formed the Court. One was the County Judge, the others Associate Justices. This Court continued until the County Court was established by act of February 12, 1849. The County Court consisted of one Judge. It had probate jurisdiction. Under the law two Justices of the Peace were elected. These had authority

to act with the County Judge to transact the business formerly done by the County Commissioners Court, and so continued to 1857, after which the County business was transacted by the Board of Supervisors, the County being then organized under the township organization law.

The following persons, residents of Rock Island, were at various times members of the County Commissioners Court: George Davenport, John W. Spencer, John Vanatta, George W. Harlan, John S. Miller, Lucius Wells, Nathaniel Belcher, Jacob Coleman, Lemuel Andrews, Adolphus Dunlap, John R. Taylor, George S. Moore, John Kistler, William L. Lee, M. W. Wright, Samuel Sloan, Jacob Starr, T. C. Temple, Captain T. J. Robinson, James Weaverling, William M. Bailey, John M. Gould, George E. Holmes.

The County Court was established by an act of the Legislature of February 12, 1849, in addition to its jurisdiction in probate matters and matters pertaining to the revenue. The Legislature conferred upon the Court a limited law jurisdiction, which it still possesses, although enlarged.

The office of County Judge has been filled by prominent citizens of Rock Island County:

John W. Spencer, 1849 to 1852;  
William Bailey, 1852 to 1853;  
John M. Gould, 1853 to 1857;  
Cornelius Lynde, Jr., 1857 to 1861;  
Joseph B. Danforth, 1861 to 1865;  
John W. Wilson, 1865 to 1871;

Samuel S. Guyer, 1871 to 1877;

Lucian Adams, 1877 to 1902;

E. E. Parmenter, 1902 to 1906;

Robert W. Olmsted, now acting Judge, elected in April, 1907, in place of E. E. Parmenter, deceased.

Courts of Probate were first established by law February 10, 1821. In the County of Rock Island Harmon G. Reynolds was Probate Justice from 1839 to 1846. He was followed by Ira O. Wilkinson, 1847 to 1849.

The Circuit Court of Rock Island County was originally in the fifth judicial circuit of the State of Illinois, afterwards in the sixth judicial circuit. In 1873 with the Counties Henry and Mercer it composed the fifth judicial circuit. Afterwards, under the act of June 7, 1877, the Counties of Rock Island, Mercer, Henry, Henderson, Warren and Knox composed the tenth judicial circuit. Under the act of April 23, 1897, the Counties of Rock Island, Mercer, Whiteside and Henry now compose the fourteenth judicial circuit.

Gentlemen eminent as jurists in this State have presided in the Circuit Courts of Rock Island County; we find on record the names of:

Richard A. Young, 1834;

Sidney Breese, 1835;

Thomas Ford, 1836;

Daniel Stone, 1837 to 1841;

Thomas C. Brown, 1841 to 1848;

Benjamin R. Sheldon, 1848 to 1849;

William Kellogg, 1850 to 1851;

Ira O. Wilkinson, 1850 to 1857;

J. W. Drury, 1858 to 1860;

John H. Howe, 1860 to 1861;

Ira O. Wilkinson, 1861 to 1867;

George W. Pleasants, 1867 to 1897;

J. J. Glenn, 1878 to 1897;

A. A. Smith, 1878 to 1894;

Hiram Bigelow, 1895 to 1902;

Emery C. Graves, 1903;

F. D. Ramsey, 1897;

William H. Gest, 1897.

Among the gentlemen named above as Judges who were residents of the County of Rock Island are Ira O. Wilkinson, J. W. Drury, George W. Pleasants and William H. Gest. Judge Wilkinson, after leaving the bench in 1867, went to Chicago, where he practiced law until 1881, when he returned to Rock Island County and resumed practice. He died August 24, 1894. Judge Pleasants, after he became Judge in 1867, continued to preside as such until the year 1897. He died October 22, 1902. For nineteen years he presided as one of the Judges of the first, second and third districts of the Appellate Courts of this State.

Judge Drury after he retired from the bench in 1860, resumed the practice of the law at Davenport, Iowa; he died March 1, 1899.

Judge Gest is now one of the Circuit Judges of this judicial district. The members of the bar of Rock Island County who are now in actual practice are about sixty-five. Many of them are young men who have lately entered into the practice of the profession. The oldest members of the bar now living and nearly all are in actual practice, are John T. Browning, Edward D. Sweeney, William Jackson, Lucian Adams, Henry C. Connelly, M. M. Sturgeon, W. J. Entriken, William A. Meese, William R. Moore, J. T. Kenworthy and Charles L. Walker.

## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

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The feeling inspired in a great number of the people of the County, to pay a tribute to the soldiers of this County, who had and would die in the war for the protection of the Union, was expressed and recognized by the Board of Supervisors December 17, 1863, by the passing of a resolution, appropriating \$1,500 toward the building of a suitable monument to be placed in Courthouse Square as a memorial to the soldiers of this County who died in the War of the Rebellion; and that their names be inscribed thereon.

For the purpose of carrying out the intent of the resolution, the clerk of the Court was authorized to issue county orders to the amount of \$1,500 to the County Monument Committee whenever they may call for them. The committee appointed were Nathaniel Belcher, B. H. Kimball, S. S. Foster, J. Q. Wynkoop and S. W. Wheelock. September 12, 1867, the Board of Supervisors authorized Major James M. Beardsley, chairman of the Citizens' Committee, to procure plans and specifications. The design presented by Leonard W. Volk, Sculptor, of Chicago, was accepted by the committee and contracted for.

Committees were appointed throughout the County to solicit contributions from everybody, which received a hearty recognition.

December 17, 1868, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Clerk to draw an order on the County Treasurer for the amount necessary to complete the Rock Island County Soldiers' Memorial Monument, upon the order of the County Monument Committee, after they should have expended the amounts already appropriated by the

County and donated by the people. The approximate cost of the monument was \$10,000; larger proportion coming from the people's donations.

The base of the monument is Concord granite, and Athens, Illinois, limestone; the shaft, which is capped, is surmounted by a statue of a Union soldier; all of Italian marble, and is about fifty feet in height. A copper box was placed in the base, under the marble shaft, where was placed newspapers of the day, and historical documents. Names of all soldiers enlisted from the County are engraved on the bases.

The monument was first placed a trifle north of midway, between the east entrance of the Court House and the street sidewalk.

In removing the monument to its present location one of the base stones were broken and replaced with granite. On the base of the monument is inscribed this sentiment:

"In memory of its patriotic and heroic sons, who served their country during the Great Rebellion, and died that the Nation might live, Rock Island County dedicates this Monument."

On Friday, April 9, 1869—the day being the fourth anniversary of the surrender of Lee's army to General U. S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia—occurred the dedication of the Soldiers' Memorial Monument.

With clouds and rain the previous day, filled the feelings of the people with disappointment; but the morning dawned clear and beautiful. The crowds gathered from the cities and country, with a fine, strong and

large representation of our Iowa neighbors. The Court House square, with Illinois and Orleans Streets, were crowded. The city was gaily decorated with flags, bunting and banners. At about 2 o'clock the police and military formed at Court House square; the Masonic orders on Buffalo Street, the Odd Fellows and Good Templers on Illinois; the Fire Department on Market square, and the civic societies in Court House square. A long line of march was made, starting from Court House square; east on Orleans Street to Madison; north on Madison to Illinois; west on Illinois to Otter; south on Otter to Orleans; and east on Orleans to Court House square, where the ceremonies commenced. The military from the Island made a most commanding appearance. General T. J. Rodman and most of the officers were present. The Turner Societies with their fine singing added much to the occasion. Salutes were fired, whistles blowing and church bells ringing. After the invocation to the people,

Honorable Emery A. Storrs of Chicago was introduced, and made the main address of the day, a most eloquent and patriotic oration.

The ceremonies of the day were highly interesting and impressive, and indication of the community's deep respect for the dead soldier. The occasion was the most memorable in the history of Rock Island County—full 30,000 people being present.

The twelve cannon originally placed around the Court House yard were given to the County by the War Department through an act of Congress, and are cannons captured from the Confederacy—several of them being spiked. Two of these cannon were afterwards presented to Graham Post No. 212, G. A. R., Moline, Illinois, and placed in Riverside Cemetery.

Decoration Day ceremonies have been regularly observed; first by the Rock Island Light Artillery, and since their disbandment by G. A. R. Posts situate here.

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## TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

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September 1, 1856, on application of three petitioners, signed by over fifty legal voters of Rock Island County, praying for the question of township organization; it was ordered by the court that the question be submitted to the voters of said county, to vote for or against township organization at the next November election. Abstract of votes given at said election resulted as follows:

For township organization, 2314.

Against township organization, 147.

Tuesday, December 2, 1856, the court appointed Lemuel Andrews, Nathaniel Belcher

and Flavel J. Whitney as commissioners to divide the county into towns, in accordance with general assembly act for township organization, passed February 17, 1851.

June 29, 30, and July 1, 1857, credentials were presented to the board of supervisors by the representatives of the following named towns:

Rock Island, R. M. Marshall, Zachariah Cook; Canoe Creek, I. H. Marshall; Hampton, Lucius Wells; Drury, Peter Demoss; Edgington, James Baker; Bowling, T. W. Vincent; Coal Valley, Lewis Wilson; Buffalo, O. H. P. Moore; Port Byron, David S. Hobert; Walker, Rinnah Wells; Fremont, A. S. Coe; Camden,



H. J. Brunot; Moline, Jeremiah Chamberlin; Cordova, George Marshall.

September 18, 1857, by order of the board of supervisors, the names of the following towns were changed:

Town of Camden, changed to Black Hawk; town of Fremont, changed to Penn; town of Buffalo, changed to Copper; town of Walker, changed to Zuma.

January 6, 1858, town of Copper, changed to Buffalo Prairie; town of Penn, changed to Coe.

September 16, 1858, a part of Edgington Township, was, through the prayer of petitioners—citizens of Edgington Township—by order of the board of supervisors, named Andalusia.

September 15, 1871, by petition of eighty-three legal voters of Coal Valley Township, a partition of the township was made, and named town of Rural.

March 3, 1873, a petition was presented to the board of supervisors, by Quincy McNeil and others, to annex that portion of the Town of Black Hawk north of Rock River to the Town of Rock Island.

December 12, 1873, by a vote of the board of supervisors—yeas, nine; nays, eight; absent, one—it was ordered that the portion of Black Hawk Township lying north of Rock River and south of the corporate limits of the City of Rock Island, be detached from the Town of Black Hawk and annexed to the Town of Rock Island.

December 14, 1877, the board of supervisors adopted a resolution that the portion of Rock Island Township, south of the corporate limits of the City of Rock Island, extending to the north shore of Rock River, be created and constituted the new Town of South Rock Island, to take effect March 1, 1878. The corporate limits of the City of Rock Island to be the Town of Rock Island.

November 16, 1872. Upon petition by three-fourths of the voters and property holders of the following tract to-wit: N. w.

$\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 6, T. 17, R. 1, 4th P. M., and W. fractional  $\frac{1}{2}$  (south of Sylvan Water) of Sec. 31, T. 18, R. 1 W., 4th P. M., the city council annexed said territory to the City of Rock Island, and made it a part of the Fourth Ward of said city.

September 15, 1875, at a meeting of the board of supervisors the above tract (a part of Moline Township), to simplify administration and taxation, was annexed to the Town of Rock Island.

March 14, 1879. Adopted by the board of supervisors, that the Town of Moline be subdivided. The incorporated City of Moline be organized as the Town of Moline; the remaining territory of Moline Township to be hereafter known as the Town of South Moline.

#### CORDOVA TOWNSHIP.

The town of Cordova lies in the extreme northeast end of the county. It is a fractional township, lying well up on the bluffs, and commands one of the finest views on the Mississippi River. The earliest settler was Herdman East, who built a log cabin in 1836 on the present site of the village of Cordova. Other settlers coming that year and in 1838 were J. S. Phillips and John Marshall from New Jersey; Guy W. and Amazi Rathburn, Nelson and Chauncey M. Tripp from New York; William Kelley, Dudy Buck, Peter Beardsley, A. G. Adams, Wm. Armstrong, Jeremiah Rice, Robert and Wm. Jenks, Dr. Thos. Baker, Benoni Haskins, A. Whiting, all having families. Nathaniel Belcher and Miss Jenks, and Joseph Mills and Miss Jenks were among the first married. The township is quite rough and broken, though some fine farms. The principal industry is the manufacture of lime.

#### VILLAGE OF CORDOVA.

This village, situated principally in the township of Cordova, with a very small portion in the township of Port Byron, lies

well up on the bluff and commands one of the finest views on the Mississippi River, which stretches away in both directions until lost by its windings; the bluffs at this point are rather abrupt.

The earliest settler of this place was Herdman East, who built a log cabin in 1836; John Marshall and family, Dr. Thomas Baker, Amazi R. Rathburn, Theodore and John Butcher coming the same year. William and George Marshall, Jonathan and K. S. Cool, and Joseph R. Sexton came in 1838.

The town was laid out in 1837 by John Marshall and Dr. Thomas Baker, and the first frame houses were built the following year by these gentlemen. Lime kilns were early established, and for some years this was a busy point. The first school was taught by Dr. Baker in his own house, where he instructed in a primitive way his own children, together with those of his neighbors.

The first school house was built in 1863, and conducted under the common school laws of the state. Since February 16, 1865, a board of education, composed of six members, control school affairs. The especial pride to which the residents direct attention is their fine graded school which numbers upward of 300 scholars, under the supervision of an efficient principal and corps of teachers. The school also has a well equipped circulating library. The principal product of the locality is corn, of which large shipments are made. The first postoffice was established in 1839, John Marshall being its first postmaster, who also kept the first hotel. In 1853 the first grist mill was erected by Brigham and Marshall. A petition for village organization was filed March 16, 1867. An election was held and went against organization. In 1877 the subject was again submitted to the voters and affirmed in favor of village organization, and on the 23d day of April, 1877, the village was duly organized. Cordova is situated on the Mississippi River, and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

#### COE TOWNSHIP.

Coe, surrounded by the townships of Canoe Creek, Port Byron, Zuma and Cordova, is considered one of the best agricultural portions of the county. John Walker was the first settler in 1835, followed shortly by John Butcher; his brother, Burrall Butcher, coming in 1836, and in 1851 locating on his brother's section, his brother having left for California, but died on his way there. Samuel Allen came in 1837, moving from what was afterwards the village of Port Byron. Samuel Ennison came shortly after from Indiana. Henry Smith, Henry M. Stockton and Isaac Hollister also coming in 1837. Mrs. Charity Marshall, a widow with nine children, came in 1838 from New Jersey. The first to wed in the township were Hiram Walker and Mary Ennis, and David Allen and Miss Remson.

#### PORT BYRON.

In the year 1826 two brothers, Robert and Thomas Syms, located on the present site of Port Byron, and established a wood yard for supplying cord wood to steamboats on the Mississippi River. Their location soon came to be known as Syms' Wood Yard. They were among the first white settlers in this locality, other residents being principally Sac and Fox Indians.

During the year 1828 Archibald Allen, Conrad Leek, George W. Harlan and others came with their families and settled in this township. Archibald Allen traded with the Indians, buying skins and furs. He was afterwards appointed supervisor of roads, was elected to the office of constable, and from 1833 to 1834 was United States mail carrier between Fort Armstrong and Galena. He was also postmaster, the office being kept in his own house, which was located just north of Syms' Wood Yard. Prior to its removal in 1836 it was known as Canaan. Mr. Allen built the first frame house between Quincy and Galena.

In 1830, Thomas Hubbard, H. East and Britton arrived and became residents of the new settlement. During this year a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Leek, which was the first white child born in the township. In the year 1831 a son of Geo. W. Harlan died, this being the first death in the township.

During the year 1832 Edmund A. Philleo was killed, the result of a quarrel over claims and possession of land. Mrs. A. Allen was the first adult person to die. The first school was taught in 1833. New settlers who came in 1834 were Walter Phillips, Geo. R. Allen, H. M. Smith and Presley Quick. The next year, 1835, Samuel Allen, William McKenney and a Mr. Hathaway came with their families. Samuel Allen kept a tavern in a double log house. His wife, Aunt Candace, as she was known, was a good cook, and they were well patronized. This year the government surveyed and subdivided the public lands. In 1836 the arrivals were Moses Bailey, Rufus B. Chase, Nathaniel Belcher, Jeremiah H. Lyford, Addison N. Philleo, Astimus Philleo and his daughter Lucretia. R. B. Chase manufactured the first white lime, for which Port Byron became noted.

About this time a town was platted and Port Byron became a point of considerable business activity. George S. Moore erected a store building; the postoffice at Canaan was closed and opened at Port Byron, with Nathaniel Belcher postmaster. Mr. Belcher built a hotel and the first frame dwelling. Dr. Jeremiah H. Lyford, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was the first physician; his practice extended over a large territory, both in Illinois and Iowa.

Colonel Eads was a resident here for a time, living with Archibald Allen prior to taking up his residence on "The Heights," at this time known as LeClaire, Iowa. His son was the famous Jas. B. Eads, also living at LeClaire during the late forties and early fifties, removing from there to St. Louis. He

became widely known as a builder of boats for the United States government, constructor of the St. Louis bridge and the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

On August 1, 1836, the first election was held for the selection of representatives in the state legislature and in congress. On November 7th the first presidential election was held, at which eleven votes were cast, all for Martin Van Buren.

This is a school town. The Port Byron Academy is a flourishing institution, under the management of the Congregational church; it has close relationship with Beloit College. The public schools are on a high order and are recognized for their good work.

#### VILLAGE OF PORT BYRON.

The village of Port Byron was incorporated in February, 1856. The village was laid out in 1836, by Samuel Allen, Dr. P. Gregg, Nathaniel Belcher and Moses Bailey; the land was held in common by them. On the land was but one log house and a small log store. The store was started by Walter Phillips. Shortly after the site was laid out Nathaniel Belcher built a frame store, and put in a stock of general merchandise, associating with him Mr. Hambaugh. The first grist mill was erected in the spring of 1849 by T. G. Temple and N. Dorrance. It was run by steam, and had one set of burrs for wheat and one set for corn. The first school was held in the old log store of Samuel Allen in 1838, Harriet Dodge being teacher. The first school house was of brick, and was built in 1864. In addition to the public school, an Academy was erected in 1883, and is in a flourishing condition. The village is situated on the Mississippi River, and its railroad facilities are the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

#### CANOE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

It was about seventy years ago that white people first settled in what became Canoe

Creek Township. These first settlers were Jonas Carter, John M. Walker and Joseph Martin. They came with ox teams from Wayne County, Illinois, and landed at Canoe Creek on the 26th day of August, 1835. Their first work was to cut down some small trees and make a pen for their stock, and then to cut some larger ones and split them up to make a rude shelter for themselves. Mr. John M. Walker is the only one of the three now living. After selecting his claim he went back to his former home and was married. He and his young bride then made their wedding trip on horseback from Wayne County to Canoe Creek. Mr. Walker still resides on his first choice of land. His wife passed away a few years ago. Abstractors would have an easy time tracing Mr. Walker's title to the land he owns. He has a deed signed by James K. Polk, president of the United States, and it has never been transferred.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Martin went to work at once on their arrival and built log houses on their claim. These were the first houses in what is now Canoe Creek Township. A part of the land covered by their claim is now owned by Wallace Woodburn and a part by William Pearsall. The land at that time had not been surveyed by the government, except into townships. About three years afterwards it was subdivided into sections.

At this time there was only one house where the Cities of Rock Island and Moline have since grown up. Mr. Walker informs the writer that their nearest neighbor to the north at that time was at Savanna, where a man lived who ran a ferry; and the nearest one to the east was at Dixon, where there was a stage station.

Their first market place was Chicago, to which place they hauled all of their surplus grain and drove the stock which they had for sale. They would haul a load of wheat to Chicago and trade it for salt. This was slow

and tedious work in those days, and there were no good roads and no bridges.

They would often find streams with full banks, swollen by heavy rains, and would have to camp for days waiting for the water to subside so they could cross with a reasonable degree of safety. At a later date Savanna and Galena became milling places. Very often one would take a sack of wheat and go on horseback to one of these places to have it ground into flour. When they went by team it usually took several days. The mills had small burrs and ground but slowly and each customer had to wait his turn to have his grist ground.

Money was scarce in those days. People did not go to the stores every week as now, for groceries and other supplies. One old settler has stated that one year his grocery bill was made up of three items: one dollar's worth of sugar, a gallon of kerosene oil at seventy-five cents, and a barrel of salt. Wild game furnished most of the meat; Johnny cake, corn bread, and a little white bread, potatoes and wild fruits, honey and maple syrup made up their bill of fare; and it was not so bad either. Housewives spun their own yarn and did their own weaving.

The scarcity of money is illustrated by the statement of one old settler, who states that before he could raise the fifty cents per acre to pay the government for his land, he had to pre-empt it several times. First by himself, then his wife and his children, making repeated filings in order to hold the land until the money could be raised.

The first house was of logs and was built by Jonas Carter.

The first frame house was built by George Kendall. The first school house was built of logs and was located on Canoe Creek.

The first frame schoolhouse was the Poplar Grove schoolhouse, and was built by John Denison. The first school was taught by Miss Johanna Herd.



The first deed conveying real estate was signed by James K. Polk, president of the United States.

The first ferry was at the big rock on the Meredosia.

The first church built was the Bethesda.

The first person buried in Bethesda Cemetery was Mrs. Parry Henderson.

The first person buried in Mt. Marie Cemetery was Mrs. Maria Liphardt.

### HILLSDALE VILLAGE

Is in Canoe Creek Township and is not incorporated. It is a small village but has good school facilities, general stores, blacksmith shop and two hotels. The first postoffice was established in 1842 or 1843, with Moses Hubbard as postmaster. The second postoffice was called Hill's Crossing. At this crossing a station was established by the Sterling & Rock Island Railroad, now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and the village was laid out in 1868 by Richard Hill and named Hillsdale. It is the shipping point for a part of Canoe Creek and Zuma Townships.

### ZUMA TOWNSHIP.

The first white child born in what is now Zuma Township was Mary Ann Sturdivan; the first white boy was L. W. Beal, long afterwards colonel in the army. The first school house was built in 1854. It is known as the Wake school house and is where all the elections are held. The first frame house built was by Mr. Center on what is known as the John Moody place. The houses in those days were small, rude and inconvenient. If they had floors they were usually of good solid oak, an inch and a quarter or more in thickness. I remember of only two houses in those early days of 1850 that were painted; those were Nelson Wells and Joseph Shanks. Polished floors were unknown and rugs and carpets very scarce. The people who settled in Zuma in those early days were generous

and hospitable; the stranger was always welcome. They believed like President Roosevelt in having plenty of good girls and boys, and in those days the boys helped their fathers and the girls their mothers.

Mr. J. B. Walker has lived in Zuma the longest; he was born in 1838. The first brick house was built by Hiram Walker in 1853.

There were no carriages or buggies in those days. If a young man wanted to take his best girl out, they had to go on foot or horse back or ride in a lumber wagon. And the people seemed happy in those days, had good times and enjoyed themselves just as well as they do today, if not better.

Among those who settled here fifty years or more ago, and whose farms are now occupied by persons of the same name are the following: Nelson Wells, Monroe Swank, Ambrose Searle, James Searle (on Rock River), Madison Bowles, George Wake, A. H. Mead, J. A. Donahue, Charles Schaffer, A. E. Herren, Davis Daily, Hiram Walker and Wesley Hanna.

The first school house was built by subscription in 1855, and was called the Oak Grove school house.

In 1856 the Syms school house was built with public funds raised by taxation.

The first frame house was built by Ambrose Searle in 1838. The frame was hewed out, rafters and all. The shingles and lath were split or "rived" out of oak with an instrument called a "frow." The boards were of maple and were sawed at a mill between LeClaire and Princeton, Iowa, owned by a Mr. Barber.

The first cider was made by Gregory Brown in the fall of 1857, from apples raised on his farm near Rock River.

Chinese sugar was introduced into this township in 1857 and some molasses was made by Munroe Swank.

The first postoffice was established in the township in 1848 and was called Fairport. It was located on section twenty-eight, on

the bank of Rock River, and Truman Gorton was postmaster.

In the year 1856 A. F. Russell laid out a town site at what is called Zuma Center. It soon had a store, blacksmith shop and shoe shop.

### JOSLIN

Is situated in the southeastern part of Zuma Township, and is a station on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. It was located by Benjamin B. Joslin, who came to this county in 1853 and acquired 600 acres of good land in the locality, and marked out the village at the time of the building of the old Sterling Railroad. N. B. Joslin, his son, started the first store in 1870 and was the first postmaster. The village is not incorporated, is small but has two general stores, one implement store, a new church, several dwellings and a good farming community surrounding it. The railroad station is named Joslyn, but the old family name is Joslin.

### ZUMA CENTER

Is situated in Town of Zuma and is not incorporated. In 1856 A. F. Russell laid out a town site which was named Zuma Center. It soon had a store, blacksmith shop and shoe shop. The bounds consist as laid out of three streets, two blocks and thirty lots. It is a small place with church, school and three houses.

### OSBORN.

Named after Fred Osborn, a long time resident and land owner of the locality. The village is not incorporated. It is situated in the southern part of Zuma Township, near Rock River and on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and near the old Cleveland ferry crossing. The postoffice, railroad depot and half a dozen houses constitute the village. At one time years ago the Sterling branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad had a bridge here across Rock

River, the railroad line continuing to the Briar Bluff coal mines, but the bridge was afterwards removed to Barstow.

### HAMPTON TOWNSHIP.

This township is situated north and east of Moline Township, the Mississippi River forming the northwestern boundary, and the Rock River the southern. The township consists of bluffs along its northern and southern boundaries, with wide rich bottoms along the rivers and a broad valley running east and west through its center, extending from the Mississippi River to Rock River. Martin Culver made the first land claim in 1826. Rev. John Kinney and two brothers made the next claims in 1827. During 1828 Henry McNeal, Joel Thompson, Michael Bartlett, Asaph Wells and Joel Wells, Jr., settled in the same vicinity. The first birth was the daughter of Henry McNeal—Mary Ann—born October 5, 1832. The first death occurred in 1829 or 1830, on board the Steamer Josephine, on her way to Galena; a lady from England coming to Galena to visit her son, died just as the boat was landing, and she was buried at Hampton. The first couple married in the town was Joel Wells and Mary McMurphy, by Jonas Wells, justice of the peace, in 1835. Within the township are six villages: Hampton, Watertown, Silvis, Carbon Cliff, Barstow and Rapids City, all incorporated villages but Barstow. The township contained some rich coal beds; some of which have been worked for many years. Charles Ames opened the first coal mine. Heagy and Stoddard, and Taylor Williams operated quite extensively in coal on sections 15, 16 and 22, where was located the mining town of Happy Hollow, now extinct, having at one time a population of 1,000 hard working, busy people. A railroad connecting these mines with the Western Union Railway, now the C., M. & St. P., at Watertown, was built in the winter of 1872 and 1873. Taylor Williams and H. M. Gilchrist & Co., operated in

coal at Rapids City; Samuel Bowles, D. G. Porter and Silvis Bros. operating in the southern part of the township.

Joel Thompson was the first postmaster, and received his appointment in the winter of 1837. Lucius Wells taught the first school, in a log cabin, in 1833 and 1834. Elihu Wells was the first teacher under the school laws.

In the years of 1833 and 1834, Henry McNeal furnished all the wood for the Mississippi River steamboats above the Des Moines rapids, and for forty years thereafter Hampton was one of the principal points for furnishing coal and wood to the river steamers. Henry McNeal owned the first tax receipt issued in Rock Island County for taxes paid. Hampton Township is well supplied with railroads: Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and the Davenport, Rock Island & Northwestern traversing her territory.

#### VILLAGE OF RAPIDS CITY.

Rapids City was surveyed and laid out in 1838. About 1833 a grist mill was built by the Wells Brothers; a saw mill being subsequently added. Another grist and saw mill was built by Joseph Cox in 1838. A Mr. Runkle and a Mr. Blanchard sold the first goods. Joseph Garnett, the first blacksmith shop in 1847. Henry S. Shurtliff started a regular grocery store in 1855, and afterwards added dry goods. In 1857 E. M. Prudens started a general merchandise store.

August 12, 1875, the county court, after canvassing the votes of an election called and appointed prior, to vote on village organization—the result of which was forty-six votes for organization and one vote against—the court decreed the Village of Rapids City to be incorporated. It is situated on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

#### TIPPECANOE.

Tippecanoe Village was platted and filed for record the 2d day of September, 1839; the formality of going through the necessary forms of recording was done, and on February 18, 1840, was approved by the county commissioners. The plat was six blocks long and two and one-half blocks wide; recorded by Joseph Cox, Samuel Cox and David Jennings the 17th day of February, 1840. It was located between Rapids City and Hampton, on the Mississippi River, about opposite Sycamore Chain. A very few people know of its ever having had an existence. It evidently was a paper town.

#### VILLAGE OF HAMPTON.

The Village of Hampton, in Hampton Township, was surveyed and platted soon after the organization of Rock Island County. Among the earliest business men were Joel Thompson, Alonzo P. Clapp, Dower and Hammond, Samuel and David Lambert, M. W. Wright and Francis Black, followed by L. F. Baker, H. F. Thomas, H. O. Norton, Dr. George Vincent, S. L. Brettun, and Wm. B. Webster. The first postoffice was established in the winter of 1837, Joel Thompson being commissioned postmaster, followed by Francis Black, Samuel Heagy and L. F. Baker. From the earliest settlement Hampton was one of the principal points for supplies for the farmers in the upper end of the county, and even considerable territory in Henry County. Here they brought their grain and sold their pork, which was packed by M. W. Wright and Francis Black, and shipped down the river by the steamboats. In after years the coal interests were the principal business reliance; Heagy and Stoddard and Taylor Williams being extensive operators. In 1884 Heagy and Stoddard were succeeded by the Northern Mining & Railway Company, who ceased operations about fifteen

years ago. The educational interests of the village are well attended to, having a good school house and good instructors.

The oldest person born in the township, if not in the county, now living, is George McNeal, who was born in 1834 in a log cabin which stood just south of the town hall in the same block in which he now resides.

The assessors' plats show there exists in the Village of Hampton, an old village called Milan, which was platted in 1837. The plat showing about thirty blocks. In this district at the present time are only four or five houses. In that year the postoffice department at Washington, D. C., was petitioned for a postoffice at this place to be called Milan. There being a postoffice of that name already in the state, the department established the postoffice under the name of Hampton, from which name the township and village derive their names.

### BARSTOW.

Barstow is not an incorporated village. When the Sterling branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was completed through Hampton Township, a station was established on land owned by Joel G. Franklin, and named Franklin Crossing, a postoffice being soon after established and given the same name as the railroad station, and Mr. Franklin being commissioned its first postmaster.

When the main line of the railroad was run to this place, the name was changed to Barstow, and shortly afterwards the name of the postoffice was likewise changed. A large transfer in mail, passenger and freight business is done here, to and from the Sterling branch, and despatched and received to and from the main lines to St. Paul and St. Louis. The village now comprises about twenty-five buildings and houses, an eating house, depot, restaurant, a general store, blacksmith shop, school house and postoffice.

### VILLAGE OF WATERTOWN

Is located in Hampton Township, and was platted in 1857. The first store was started that year by Lucius Curtis, who became the first postmaster. The Western Illinois Hospital for the Insane is located there. On the 14th day of March, 1905, fifty-one legal voters of a district prescribed, petitioned the county court for the organization of the Village of Watertown. The 15th day of April, 1905, was set apart for an election to be held at the M. W. A. hall to vote for or against village organization; the result being sixteen votes for incorporation and forty-four against.

April 24, 1905, another petition was presented to the county court by forty-five petitioners for village organization and an election day appointed for the 13th day of May, 1905; the result being sixty votes for village organization and thirty-eight votes against organization.

An election held the 17th day of June, 1905, for village trustees, resulted in the election of Frank H. Sovey, John Rah, Henry C. McNeal and David Y. Allsbrow. A tie vote occurring of forty-nine votes for Eric Bowman and Henry Hillberg. Each came into court on the 23d day of June, 1905, and agreed to decide by lot. One of the officers of the court was blindfolded, two slips of paper with each candidates names written thereon were placed in a hat, and the officer drawing therefrom, Eric Bowman was declared elected the sixth trustee.

### VILLAGE OF CABBON CLIFF

The village of Carbon Cliff lies in the south part of Hampton Township, and is principally noted for its pottery and tile works.

November 13, 1906, thirty-seven legal voters of Hampton Township, desiring village incorporation, petitioned the county court for same. The court ordered an election to be held on the 8th day of December, 1906, for or against village organization, the elec-



tion to be held at Hennegan's store. The result of said election was fifty-five votes for village organization and twenty-eight votes against same. An order was issued calling for an election for six trustees of the village the 12th of January, 1907. W. R. Carey, William Gearhardt, J. A. Hennegan, Claus F. Hansen, R. V. O'Donnell and P. N. Hennegan being elected.

#### TOWNS OF ROCK ISLAND AND MOILNE

A history of the towns of Rock Island and Moline would apparently be similar and coincident to the history of the cities of Rock Island and Moline, the two towns being the corporate limits of the two cities. The date of the formation of these two townships is noted in Township Organization.

#### SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP

Was organized as a town March 14, 1879. It comprises all the territory originally in Moline Township, lying south and east of the corporate limits of the City of Moline. The history of the township, with the exception of its extreme eastern portion is so strongly interwoven with Moline, it is hard to draw a historical line. Among its earliest settlers were David Sears, Charles Atkinson, Joseph Danforth, Joel Wells and Huntington Wells.

#### VILLAGE OF SILVIS.

November 14, 1906, thirty-six petitioners representing over 300 resident population, petitioned the county court of Rock Island County, Illinois, for the organization of the Village of Silvis. An election was ordered to be held December 1, 1906, for or against village organization.

The corporate limits of said village to be as described in petition, about two square miles. Result of election was seventy-nine votes for organization, and six votes against. An election for six trustees was held January 12, 1907. R. Walsh, J. W. Pike, James Shannon, Wm. Emmert, F. J. Ball and Herbert Love

being elected. The general railroad shops of the C., R. I. & P. R. R. are located here employing from 1,500 to 2,000 men.

#### VILLAGE OF EAST MOLINE.

On the 22d day of November, 1902, forty-two legal voters of the district petitioned the county court for the organization under the general law, of a village to be named the Village of East Moline. The 20th day of December was appointed as an election day to vote for or against village organization; election to be held at John Deere school building. The result of said election was forty-seven votes for organization and seven votes against. December 23, 1902, the votes were canvassed by the judge of the county court and two justices of the peace, and announced and adjudged for village organization.

January 17, 1903, Andrew L. Mills, Thomas J. Gorman, Albert E. Bergholtz, Frank E. Palmer, August G. Schipper and James B. Hock were elected trustees.

This is a rapidly growing village, and famous for its number of manufactories. At present the village is unable to accommodate the hundreds of working men who are employed there and at Silvis, a few miles above, and where the Rock Island shops are located. The employees of the gigantic shops are compelled to live in Rock Island, Moline and Davenport, for the most part owing to the fact that not a sufficient number of houses have been erected for their occupancy.

East Moline was incorporated as a village December 23, 1902. It is situated in South Moline Township, seven miles east of Rock Island, and four miles east of Moline.

The Rock Island System, the C., M. & St. P., the D., R. I. & N. W. Railroads and the Mississippi Valley Traction Company electric line enter the village.

This village offers unprecedented opportunities for investment and factory locations. The population is now about 600. It

has telegraph, express and telephone facilities.

The village of East Moline was incorporated as a city in January, 1907.

### COALTOWN.

What was considered old Coaltown was more of a locality than a village, embracing a territory contingent to numerous coal mines in the southeast portion of the present township of Hampton and a small part of South Moline Township, and a very active locality it was in the early days. At one point where Samuel Bowles, who came to this county in 1835, discovered the first coal bed in this vicinity, and at one time built a church there. The vicinity was called Bowlesburg; another vicinity Tinkerville. The Silvis mines are still running, and a branch of the D., R. I. & N. W. Railway run there.

### SOUTH ROCK ISLAND TOWNSHIP.

The township extends south from the corporate limits of the City of Rock Island to the north shore of the Rock River. This township is exceedingly productive of agricultural products. Its chief distinction lies in its phenomenal growth. From a mere pasture, hills and farm lands it has developed into one of the most desirable residence portions of Rock Island County. The principal place of interest is the noted Black Hawk's Watch Tower, which at the present time is quite a summer resort. From this tower Black Hawk kept watch for his enemies, either red or white.

There are few locations, if any, in the great northwest, that will compare with it in natural beauty of scenery. Black Hawk's Watch Tower is a prominent point of ground, rising almost perpendicularly some two hundred feet above the level of the Rock River; and from its summit one can look out over miles and miles of pastoral beauty, and seventeen miles of the Rock River Valley.

### ROCK ISLAND CITY

Was located opposite the western end of Vandruff's Island, on the north shore of the Rock River, taking in the site of the old Sac Indian village. It was eighteen blocks long, running north from the river, and east and west nine blocks. It was platted and accepted by the County Commissioners July 20, 1836, and recorded July 22, 1836. A beautiful paper city.

### VILLAGE OF SEARS

Is located in the Town of South Rock Island. Forty-three legal voters of South Rock Island petitioned the County Court to have the privilege of voting on the incorporation of the Village of Sears, under the general law; petitioners describing bounds and affirming the district contained a population of 350.

May 3, 1894, an election was held for or against incorporation, resulting in fifty-three votes for organization, and six votes against. May 26, 1894, the following six trustees were elected: C. H. Dibbern, John E. Breen, B. Patterson, J. McCarty, J. F. Mead and E. D. Fisher.

### BLACK HAWK TOWNSHIP

Derives its name from the noted chief of the Sac and Fox Indians, who for many years had his home within the present limits of South Rock Island Township.

This township originally was full six miles square, with the exception of a few hundred acres cut off from the northwest corner by the Mississippi River, and with Rock River flowing from the east nearly through its center. Afterwards the township was divided and Rock River became the northerly line of Black Hawk Township, and that part of the original township north of the river was named South Rock Island Township.

The first marriage license in the township was issued on August 22, 1833, to Benjamin Goble and Barbara Vandruff, both now asleep in the beautiful Chippianock Ceme-

tery. They lived for many years on Big Island.

Joshua Vandruff was an early pioneer and lived on what was then called Lowell Island. His sons, Joshua, Jr., John, Henry, Jacob and James, all had farms on Big Island, where they lived for many years. Other early settlers in the township were William Dickson and Col. John Dickson, the latter for many years justice of the peace; James Johnston, G. W. Heflin, James Dickson, Ira Whitehead, N. D. Bradley, Wm. Young, Daniel Pinkley, David Brownlee, Garret Davis, John Bulley, Morgan Fergusson, A. L. Buck and N. Bruner.

The township has an abundant supply of coal and wood and is traversed by two railroads—the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific to Peoria, and the Cable and Mercer County Branch. The Peoria line was built in 1854. It also has an electric car line, connecting Milan, Black Hawk's Watch Tower, Rock Island, Moline and Davenport. The celebrated Hennepin Canal, connecting the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, is completed through this township.

It also has one of the finest water powers in the state and some time it will, no doubt, be more largely utilized.

At one time there were three paper mills on Rock River and two large flouring mills, one owned by James Johnston and one by the Sears company. All were consumed by fire.

There are now two churches in this township and eight school houses. No other township has better educational facilities.

Martin Whistler was the first merchant to open a general store in the township.

The stars and stripes were first hoisted here in the summer of 1805, by Lieutenant Pike.

The first land entered was on October 19, 1829, by William T. Brasher, covering the location now occupied by the cemetery.

Black Hawk Township comprises a section noted not only for the beauty of its landscape,

but also for being an exceedingly prosperous farming community. The bottom land is very rich and produces immense crops of corn, hay, potatoes and small grain, while the finest apples, peaches, grapes and berries are raised in large abundance, and all find ready market close at hand. It is not surpassed—perhaps not equalled—by any other section of the state, or the great west. Farmers, as a rule, are well-to-do, prosperous and happy, and a happy home amidst such surroundings means an extension of life. The south side of the township has a line of beautiful bluffs and are made practical from being underlaid with a vein of most excellent coal, from four to six feet thick.

With rich soil, beautiful scenery, cheap fuel, clear running streams, extensive water power, transportation by rail, both steam and electric, by river and canal; nearby markets and a healthful climate; what more can be desired, and what is there lacking to make it an ideal farming community?

With farms paid for, and carrying an unquestioned value of \$100 to \$120 an acre, and with good health, why should not our farmers be contented and consequently happy.

#### LOWELL

Was located on the north shore of Lowell Island—now Vandruff's Island. It was surveyed in June, 1844, and plat approved by county commissioners the second of September, 1844, and filed of record the 16th of October, 1844. The plat was executed for Joshua Vandruff, Zadoc Kalbaugh and Thomas Patterson, and was four blocks long, east and west, and three blocks wide, facing north on the main branch of the Rock River, about where the first present north wagon bridge crosses the river. Regularly named streets were Kalbaugh, Patterson and Mill running north to the dam. Lemuel Andrews kept the first store. It was short lived. An old canal was built here in the early forties, to surmount the Rock River rapids; for the

construction of which the government appropriated \$100,000 in gold. Foot prints still show where it existed.

#### VILLAGE OF MILAN.

On the south shore of Rock River, in Black Hawk Township, stands Milan, deriving a thrifty trade from her adjacent farming country. Cheap coal and abundant water power make Milan essentially a manufacturing point, though sad to relate, a nemesis has apparently pursued every establishment ever erected there.

Milan was originally called Camden, and was laid out by William Dickson in 1843. In 1848 the name was changed to Camden Mills, on account of there being another Camden in Schuyler County. In 1870 the name was changed to Milan. The place was incorporated as a village in 1865.

When white settlers first arrived here, the famous Sac village of Black Hawk stood on the opposite side of the river. A colony of Kickapoos occupied the south shore below the town. In 1828 Rinnah Wells came here and settled among the Indians, who did not leave their village till 1831. Joshua Vandruff came the year following. For two or three years these pioneers and Indians lived together, and had their friendly intercourse and their disputes and quarrels. Mr. Vandruff built where Sears' Mill now is, and lived there until he built his house on the island which bears his name, and where he died and was buried about 1859. His remains were afterwards taken up and removed to Chippiannock Cemetery. Mr. Wells died suddenly in 1852, being found dead in his buggy on the road.

William Dickson, the founder of the town, was the father of Colonel George Dickson, for many years justice of the peace in Milan. He was born in Newburg, N. Y., March 27, 1783. His father was a Captain in the Revolutionary war. His grandfather and grandmother were murdered by the Indians

and Butler's Rangers in the famous Cherry Valley massacre. After the Revolution the father of William Dickson moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where William was brought up till he was eighteen, when he moved to a farm in Erie County, Pennsylvania, near the shore of Lake Erie. Here he was married and became quite a noted man of his time, being at one time a member of the Board of Canal Commissioners of the State of Pennsylvania. He raised a family of nine children, seven sons and two daughters. In the spring of 1834 he visited this portion of Illinois on horseback, and returned home in the fall. In 1836 he returned here, and was one of the proprietors of the famous "Rock Island City" scheme. In the spring of 1837 he brought his family here, and resided on the site of the old Sac town till 1867, when he sold to D. B. Sears and moved to Milan, where he died November 25, 1869.

Colonel John Dickson was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, February 6, 1813, and came to Milan in 1844.

The Dickson and Brunot Flouring Mill was built in 1843 by James Dickson and Felix R. Brunot. In 1846 Howard and Weeks built a saw mill just below the above. In 1848 it was converted into a flouring mill and carding machine by James Dickson and N. D. Bradley. In 1843 Joshua Vandruff and Zadoc Calbaugh built a saw and flouring mill at the north end of the dam on Vandruff's Island. The flouring mill was struck by lightning and burned in 1857; the saw mill became dilapidated and fell into disuse, and finally rotted down about 1870.

Today Milan has no manufactories to speak of, and serves simply as a village trading point for the farming community. The glory of her earlier days, the immense investments and the rugged and active life which once made for Milan a reputation long to be remembered, the factories and shops which once represented upwards of a million and



a-half of dollars—all have become a memory and constitute a ground for reminiscence only.

#### COAL VALLEY TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

Coal Valley dates its staple history from the spring of 1857. Large deposits of coal in the vicinity, and the opening of mines, fixed its location. The first small coal mine was known as the "Bailey Coal Bank."

In 1856 Ben Harper, S. S. Guyer and David Hakes acquired a large tract of land containing large deposits of coal; they organized a company to mine coal and construct a railroad to get it to market—the railroad being completed from Coal Valley to Rock Island in October, 1857. The first coal loaded on a railway car at the Valley was handled by Robert Lee, afterwards superintendent of the mines of the Coal Valley Mining Company at Coal Valley, Cable and Sherrard; and considered one of the best coal mine experts in the state. At present he is resting on the laurels of a good honest busy life.

Opening the mines gave a strong impetus to the new town. The first business house was a general store, owned by Mr. Herrick; afterwards by Bailey and Boyle, then by Cable, Lee and Bardsley. The building is quite a landmark. The first physician to locate was Dr. Thomas Martin, coming from Camden Mills. The first meat market by Mr. Grantz, then by Thomas Corns, who came from Camden Mills and to Rock Island County in 1851. The first lumber yard was owned by Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the great lumber and timber king.

The first blacksmith was David Rowland, who was assisted by Murty Connor.

The first carpenters and builders were John Petty, William Myers and Richard and P. Callahan.

The first hotel was kept by L. Evans, and called the Coal Valley House.

The first brick were manufactured by John T. Hass.

About 1859 Philander L. Cable of Rock Island purchased an interest in the mines of Harper, Guyer & Hakes, and later acquired entire control, with R. R. Cable an interest. The Cables never having any trouble with the miners; helping them to get their homes; and it is understood, dividing with them the market price of coal—one-third to the firm, one-third to the railroad and one-third to the miners; which would seem mutually equitable and just. The first shoemaker was Peter Schroeder, a German. The first settlers in the Valley were largely foreigners—Welch, English, German and Irish; but a more hospitable community was never known. Latch strings of all the homes were always on the outside. The first mail to Coal Valley was by stage. Mr. Dack of Rock Island was carrier. Mail was received once a week. The first postoffice was kept in what is now J. K. Stenstrom's shoe store. The first postmaster was Thomas Jones, who was also mine boss for Hakes, Guyer & Harper. After the railway was built the mail was brought twice a week, then three times a week, and in the early sixties became daily. At one time Frederick Weyerhaeuser was postmaster; the present incumbent being Thomas J. Murphy, who has filled the position for ten years.

The Coal Valley Mining Company's mines being nearly exhausted, the company sought a new field at Cable. After the removal of the company from the Valley, a number of other mines were opened by the Black Diamond Coal Company; John J. Pryce and others. There is a vast field of coal, within a radius of two miles of the town; the owners of which are the Guinty heirs, the Hillier heirs, Robert Sommerson, Thomas Lees, the Black Diamond Coal Company, Dr. W. F. Myers and the Banner Coal Company.

Besides the coal mines they have a fine farming country; merchants of all kinds; a

grain elevator; two large general stores; two meat markets; grocery stores; two blacksmith shops; shoe store; drug store; barber shop; restaurant; livery and feed stable; brick yard; and all to make up a flourishing wide awake community.

#### RURAL TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers of Rural, which formerly formed part of Coal Valley Township, were Thomas and Davis Goodlow, brothers, who built the first house on section 29. John Farlow being the second, who came from Pre-emption Township, at which place he was the first settler. He built the small house on section 30 of this township. The first child born was a son of John Farlow, in 1839. The first marriage was that of David Goodlow and Nancy Farlow. Before the year 1840 the following persons came to this township: A. L. and A. N. Sayre, J. M. Wilson, Capt. J. A. Jordan and Daniel Valentine. Capt. Jordan and Mr. Valentine lived just over the line in Pre-emption, but most of their land being in Rural they finally built in this township. The first school was taught by Seth Trego, in a private house. The first school house was built in 1846, by contributions from the following persons: Capt. J. A. Jordan, Albert N., Alonzo S. and M. Sayre, J. M. Wilson, Daniel Valentine and William Crist. These persons also contributed money to secure the first teacher, Mr. Shedd.

Robert Middleham, Patrick Campbell, Henry Brown, Charles Wilkinson, Michael Ballman, Philip Deal and Alexander Gordon, all of whom had families, arrived in what is now known as Rural Township, about the year 1848. At that time the nearest habitation was six miles, at Milan (Camden Mills at that time.) Rock Island then was the nearest postoffice.

Alexander Bailey, who won the appellation of "Old Satan" among his neighbors, was also among the early Rural settlers. He squatted on and held the southwest corner of

section 1. His place was soon known as "Satan's Kingdom," and even to this day the land he held as a squatter is called "The Kingdom."

In 1850 Francis Bailey settled on a farm in section 11, and soon thereafter a school house was built on his land, which is still known as the Bailey School House.

In 1851 William and Charles Bailey, with their families, lived in the only log house in what is now Coal Valley.

John C. Bailey relates that when he arrived in Rock Island, in 1849, that he labored for \$4.00 per month and got a grocery order for pay. The family settled in Rural Township in 1851. They broke prairie for several years with oxen of from four to six to a plow. Upon one occasion they broke forty acres of ground for a neighbor and received as remuneration the munificent sum of \$80.00 all in silver 50 cent pieces. At another time they broke a like number of acres for the same money and considered that they were making money rapidly.

#### BOWLING TOWNSHIP.

Bowling Township is bounded by Rural on the east, Edgington on the west, north by Black Hawk and south by Mercer County. The country is quite rolling, with splendid farms, and plenty of timber land and prairie. The first settlers were Mr. Bowling, John Tyndall, William Tyndall and Edmond Cropper, in 1838. William Tyndall came to the county in 1835, living in Stephenson over two years. In 1841 James, David and John Clarke and John Johnston and Christopher Armstrong—all from Ireland—formed the next settlement, known as the Clarke settlement, in the southeastern part of the township. Curtiss McKnight settled soon after. The first school was held about 1844 or 1845, in a small frame house on section 26.

#### EDGINGTON TOWNSHIP

This is one of the oldest settlements in the county. Three score and ten years have gone

into the past since the first white settlers set foot upon its soil.

The first white children born here are now among the old men and women of our times. They are the Dunlaps, Edgingtons, Titteringtons, Montgomeries, Parks, Parmenters and Eberharts. Only a few of them reside here now to tell the story of their childhood days. Many have removed to other parts of the globe, and some have passed the bourne whence none return, and so the name of Edgington has now a halo of sacredness about it.

The pioneers have all passed away, and the old homes are inhabited by members of the old families or strangers.

The first settlers were James Robison, Joseph Dunlap and Daniel Edgington. It was in the summer of 1834, when Andrew Jackson was president, and the State of Illinois had attained the age of sixteen years, that they planted homestead stakes. Robison moved up from Warren County, Illinois, and Dunlap and Edgington came prospecting from Steubenville, Ohio. Immigrants came overland in wagons, or down the Ohio and up the Mississippi by steamboat. Prospectors came mostly on horseback. Robison and Dunlap located on section 5 and Edgington on section 6. On each section good springs of water were found. Where Jacob L. Harris now lives, James Robison built his cabin, and returned for his family that same fall.

About the center of the section, on the east border, Joseph Dunlap built a double log house. He and Edgington returned to Steubenville and brought their families. They came in the spring of 1835. Those three cabins formed a sort of triangle, with a path leading from one to the other. Such was the beginning of the settlement of Edgington Township.

George W. Kell and Henry Eberhart and family, came in the spring of 1835. Charles Eberhart and family, John Titterington and

family, with Moses and Charles Titterington, came in the fall of 1835. The Eberharts coming from New Jersey and the Titteringtons from Ohio.

In 1836 B. McNutt and family from Ohio, William Snell and family from Mississippi, Daniel Montgomery from Pennsylvania. Soon after came Alexander Hazlitt and family, W. D. Hatton, Parley Laffin and family, Joseph Asquith and family. In 1838 George Parmenter, Allen Parmenter, Lorenzo Parmenter, Seth Parmenter, H. H. Parks, A. J. Webster and Timothy Dulton increased the settlement.

Daniel Edgington was the first justice of the peace. The business of the justice was not very onerous in those days. Squire Edgington, however, had the honor of performing the first marriage ceremony that was solemnized; the parties united by him were John P. Cooper and Miss Mina Pace.

The first school was taught in the cabin home of Mrs. Amanda Cushman, on section 6, just opposite the present residence of Geo. T. Harris. Mrs. Cushman was the teacher.

The first postoffice was kept in the Cushman home, and Mr. C. D. Cushman was postmaster. It was not against the law to scratch matches on mail boxes, for there was no matches nor mail boxes. There were no postage stamps, no envelopes, no money orders, no registering of letters.

The first storekeeping was by George D. Parmenter, in his own residence at the "four corners," where the Edgington village is located.

The first and only grist mill, which was a great thing for the neighborhood, was constructed by Joseph Dunlap, at his own residence, in a very primitive manner. The building was of logs. Its size was sixteen feet square, one story. The burrs were two granite boulders. The mill was run by horse power. Its grinding capacity was about fifty bushels per day. To make a fine quality of flour the bolting was done by hand with

a hair seive. But the wheat flour was, for the most part, a first class quality of what is now called graham. Much corn meal was used. Neighbors on coming to the mill usually furnished their own horse power, and did their own grinding, and the proprietor took no toll.

#### EDGINGTON VILLAGE

Is an unincorporated village, situate in the Town of Edgington. In the early forties and up to the coming of the railroad it was quite a thriving place. George D. Parmenter opened the first store in 1843, in his house, a log cabin. He afterwards built what was called the old store, selling out to Isaac Negus and E. Burrall. The firm of Negus & Burrall subsequently built a larger and better building. They were succeeded by Charles R. Ainsworth, and he by Rufus Walker. In 1855 Fish & Lee commenced business here, afterwards locating in Rock Island. The railroad on the east cut off the early trade, and conditions now are much more quiet.

#### TAYLOR RIDGE VILLAGE

Is not incorporated. It is situated in Bowling and Edgington Townships. The Rock Island and Mercer County Railroad was completed to this place in September, 1876, and on the day of its completion twenty-three cars of stock were shipped to Chicago; and on the following day seventeen car loads. The village is surrounded by a good agricultural country. It was laid out by J. L. Frankeberger, a civil engineer employed on the railroad, and contains two blocks and twenty-four lots, two stores, a blacksmith shop, an eating house, postoffice, drug store, hotel, elevator and excellent conveniences for carrying on grain and stock business. The people along the line of the railroad have shown a remarkable degree of enterprise and liberality in contributing to the constructing

of this road. Mr. James Taylor gave the right of way here and \$1,000, and the place was named Taylor Ridge in his honor. The railroad crosses the village transversely.

#### VILLAGE OF REYNOLDS.

Wait and Walker originally platted a portion of Section 36, of the township of Edgington, for a village, and gave it the name of Reynolds, in honor of Elisha P. Reynolds, the railroad contractor and long time resident of the City of Rock Island. The first plat contained three blocks of forty lots. The village as at present is situated in two counties and four townships. Edgington and Bowling Townships of Rock Island County, and Perryton and Pre-emption Townships of Mercer County. The Rock Island and Mercer County Railroad was completed to Reynolds October 6, 1876. On that day a half-mile of track was finished by 3 o'clock and at 6 o'clock thirty-three cars of stock were shipped to Chicago. A glorious day's result. The first building erected was the depot building, by Rufus Walker, and where was sold the first goods. W. D. Goodner erected the first hotel, the Commercial House, in 1876. The first blacksmith was H. Webster, winter of 1876. The first harness maker was Emil Helpenstell, in 1877. Joseph Flora the first wagon maker in 1877. The first physician, Dr. F. Stuart in 1877. The first grain buyers were Wait & Walker; loading grain directly into the cars from the farmers' wagons. The postoffice was established in 1876, with R. B. Olmstead its first postmaster.

School District No. 7 was formed in 1877, the first school being taught in the house of Weaver Kuhns by Miss Jenny Kuhns. At present they have a fine commodious school house. The school is a graded one.

An election held at the bank in Reynolds, February 28, 1891, for village organization, resulted as follows; sixty-seven votes being cast: Thirty-three votes for organization,



and thirty-four votes against organization. May 17, 1894, upon petition to the County Court of thirty-one legal voters of the district, June 2, 1894, was appointed the date to hold another election on the proposition of village organization. Said election resulted, fifty-six for incorporation, and twelve against. July 3, 1894, J. P. Johnston, W. G. Davis, J. M. Walker, Gust Olson, W. P. Kuhns and R. P. Wait were elected village trustees.

#### TOWN OF ANDALUSIA.

Andalusia is one of the historic towns of Rock Island County. It is located on the Mississippi River, about ten miles west of the City of Rock Island. The township has about six miles of frontage on the river, but has less depth, being less than half the size of a congressional township. Though small in size it is one of the hustling townships of the county. Its history dates from the earliest settlement of the country. One of the first settlers was Captain B. W. Clark, father of Captain W. L. Clark, of Buffalo, Scott County, Iowa, now the oldest living first settler in the State of Iowa.

A quarter section of land, which forms a part of the present town plat of Andalusia, was entered by Captain B. W. Clark, and in the fall of 1832 he built a hewn log house at the west end of what is now the Village of Andalusia. This house when first built was the only one between that of Joshua Vandruff on Vandruff's Island, at the foot of Black Hawk's Watch Tower, and Erastus Dennison's, at the upper "Yellow Banks," now New Boston. The logs used in Captain Clark's house at Andalusia are still doing good service. They were taken down long years ago and hauled across the river on the ice to the Town of Buffalo, and at the present form, the west half of Henry Springmeier's residence at that place.

The next house built here was on the Sulphur Springs farm in the spring of 1834, by Hackley Sans. The next was built by

John Vanatta, during the fall of 1834. This was afterwards bought and occupied by Jonathan Buffum, and for half a century was known as the old Buffum place, now owned by A. Hofer. This same fall Mr. Dunlap, Daniel and John Edgington came to this part of the new west and located lands just south of Andalusia. They soon returned to Ohio, and in the spring of 1835 chartered a boat and brought their families and household goods and became permanent residents. They also brought with them the elder McNutt and his son John, a carpenter; Moses and Charles Titterington and two other brothers and their families; also Charles and Harry Eberhart and families, and Adolph Dunlap, a noted gunsmith. James Robison and the Parmenters came a little later.

Clark's Ferry, which was operated between Andalusia and Buffalo, became the most noted river crossing above St. Louis. Many of the first settlers of this section of the west came down the Ohio River by boat and then up the Mississippi to Clark's Ferry. Many of the first settlers of Scott, Muscatine, Cedar and Linn Counties, Iowa, crossed the river here. Captain Clark operated this ferry until 1836, when he sold his interests on this side of the river, including the ferry to Colonel Stephenson, W. S. Hamilton and a Mr. White-side, of Galena, Illinois, for \$17,000. These men, with others, laid out the town of Stephenson, afterward Rock Island. They also laid out the town of Rockport, the east side of which was Fancy Creek, and the west side the creek on the west side of the Sulphur Springs farm, and the south line at least a mile from the river. They had it platted on paper in a most gorgeous and attractive manner and took it to Washington, D. C., where, it is said, they sold thousands of dollars worth of town lots to such men as Daniel Webster, Henry Clark, John C. Calhoun, General George W. Jones and other prominent people, none of whom ever saw the lots. Rockport only grew on paper and

finally died a slow and easy death, was sold for taxes and bought up by Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, who relaid a portion of it into lots and named the new town Andalusia.

Their public schools have the well earned reputation for being amongst the best in the county.

The Memorial Association is composed of old soldiers, old settlers and others. Its organization was effected by the members of Alfred Bing Post, G. A. R. The idea was to have an association that would be historical in character and in time, when the old soldiers have all passed away, would succeed the Post in a way, and aid in perpetuating the memories of war heroes and also of the historic characters conspicuous in the early settlement of the country. This organization sets an example worthy to be followed in other communities.

Captain W. L. Clark, in his reminiscent sketches, tells of a wedding party in the early days, where the knot was tied by the late Daniel Edgington, when a young man and justice of the peace. John Cooper and Jane Fay were the contracting parties. They lived in Buffalo, which was then in an unorganized territory, so they came to Rock Island County for a license and were married on this side of the river. The young justice had never performed a ceremony of this kind before and was more or less nervous. Thus it happened that he forgot to ask all the usual questions and when the consent of the bride had been signified he pronounced them man and wife without propounding the usual queries to the groom. Mr. Cooper, who lived many years in Buffalo often asserted that he had been but half married.

An interesting statement by Captain Clark is the following:

"Since boyhood I have lived in the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase, State of Illinois, Michigan Territory, Wisconsin Territory, Minnesota Territory, Black Hawk Purchase, Iowa Territory, and the State of Iowa,

and all this time only moved one mile. I might add that I have a friend, 'Timber Woods,' of Burlington, Iowa, whose oldest son was born in Michigan Territory, his second son in Wisconsin Territory, his third son in Iowa Territory, and his fourth son in the State of Iowa, and all were born in the same log cabin, standing all the time on the same spot."

#### VILLAGE OF ANDALUSIA.

Captain B. W. Clark was the original owner of the village plat, which was a part of the old paper city of Rockport. In 1843 Samuel Kenworthy opened a store in his log cabin, which stood near the river and ferry landing. In 1845 Colonel N. B. Buford bought at tax sale the lots of Rockport, built a store and warehouse, and named the place Andalusia. In 1866 S. M. Boney had the place re-surveyed and laid out into lots and blocks with streets named. In early days the village did a good prosperous business with the farmers and steamboat shipping trade. An election was held May 10, 1884, in the Town of Andalusia, at the hall of Robert Ross, for village organization; the total vote being seventy. For village organization, thirty-nine votes; against thirty-one votes. Vote was canvassed and approved May 12, 1884, by County Judge Lucian Adams and Justice of the Peace, David Hawes, and James W. Ballard. The third day of June, 1884, an election was held in the village of Andalusia for six village trustees, seventy-five votes being cast. Trustees elected were William Smith, John H. Brookman, James W. Ballard, Benjamin Dill, J. H. Britton and H. Mosher.

#### BUFFALO PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

This town, under original organization, was named Buffalo; afterward changed to Copper, and then to its present name.

Its northern boundary is the Mississippi River, the southern Mercer County, eastern

the Townships of Edginton and Andalusia, and west by Drury Township.

John Edginton was the first settler, coming here in 1834 from Jefferson County, Ohio, with his wife, who was Miss Susan Crabs, born in the same county, just married and together they came west. John Kistler was the next to locate in the vicinity, and who became quite prominent in local affairs.

Samuel Sloan came in 1839 from Pennsylvania.

The first boy born was a son to John and Susan Edginton, March 20, 1835, named James. The first school was in 1840, taught by a venerable Scotchman. A very thrifty class of the people were Germans, who came in an early day. The township is composed of prairie land and timber, about equally, with numerous fine and well improved farms. It is said that Buffalo Prairie derives its name from the fact that in the early settlement days a great portion of the prairie land had been long and strongly trodden and stamped by the buffalo in their early grazing grounds, together with their deep trail paths leading to their drinking places.

#### BUFFALO PRAIRIE

Is situated in Buffalo Prairie Township, and not incorporated. Is a small place, with postoffice and two or three houses.

#### DRURY TOWNSHIP.

Drury Township was named in honor of the Drury family, the earliest pioneers of the township. It is situated in the southwestern corner of the county and embraces one full congressional township and parts of three others. It contains some very rough and broken upland and some smooth bottom land; much of it, however, is of the best quality as to soil, and there are as some fine farms in this township as can be found in the county.

Some of the early settlers were: Miles, Isaiah, Reynolds, Eli, Silas and James Drury, William and Ithamar Reynolds, Jacob A.

Seiver, William Huff, I., B. Elijah and James Essex, Matthew and Jeremiah LeQuatte, William Womacks, Solomon Simpson, Anthony Ricketts, John Ballard, John Harbaugh, James McPherson, Harry Hampton, S. Prentiss, William Hays, John Boruff, Joseph and Antoine Blair, L. V. Reed and M. H. Johnson.

The settlers who came to this country in the thirties and the early forties to carve homes for themselves and families found they had undertaken no light and easy task. They had many difficulties to overcome, many hardships to endure. They indeed lived the "simple life," in rude log cabins and with few comforts, while luxuries were not thought of. All settlers were neighbors, although they might be miles apart. All were on a common level as to mode of life and largely as to resources. All were "horney handed sons of toil." Their opportunities for mental growth and culture were of their own creation, and evolved from their own individualities. Nature was their teacher and nature's lessons were well learned. In those early days there were no schools for the children, no churches, no doctors, no mills, no stores, no roads, no bridges; just the rich soil, groves of timber, pure air and water, and a healthful climate. But they were hopeful, energetic, industrious and persevering. Years rolled by, other settlers came, schools and churches, roads and bridges, railroads, cities and villages were built, and those who have lived until the present day have witnessed a growth and development that has been indeed marvelous.

Other reminiscences would undoubtedly find, many times, almost similar occurrences.

Mr. John L. Wray, when a boy, worked from six in the morning until sundown for fifty cents a day, which was considered good wages.

Mr. J. A. Seiver speaks of "planing" corn; that is, took ears of corn, before getting too hard, and shaved them across the bottom of a jack plane and shaved off the kernels. The corn shavings making good mush and very

good bread. Shortly after he was married he went to Cambridge, Indiana, for a housekeeping outfit. He got a Dutch oven, a skillet and an iron kettle, and these amounted to their cooking utensils for some time. School teachers received so much a pupil instead of a salary. A log cabin on the Miles Drury place was used for a school house, and another one on Section 29, commonly known as the "bull pen." Miles Drury's barn was used as a church. The people were obliged to go to Drury's Landing, six miles away, for their mail, and paid twenty-five cents postage on every letter. Mrs. Rosman says when they went visiting, oxen and a lumber wagon was their carriage. They sheared their sheep before they sold them in Indiana, and cloth was made from this wool by her mother, who carded, spun and wove it by hand.

Reynolds Drury settled at Drury's Landing, where he opened a general store, bought grain and pork and did a flourishing business. A postoffice was established there at an early day and it became for a time the principal market place for this section of the country. But the building of railroads changed business centers and residents of the town now trade at Muscatine.

Isaiah and Silas Drury had a grist mill, a saw mill and a wool-carding machine, located on Section 20, on Copperas Creek, built as nearly as can be recalled, in 1837 or 1838.

Dr. Reynolds was the first physician in this township and in the lower end of the county.

Residents of Drury Township boast of having some of as good, and as fine bred live stock as can be found anywhere, but to Buffalo Prairie Township belongs the distinction of raising "Alex," known for many years as the fastest horse in the world. Daniel Hayes had the honor of breeding and raising this speedy animal. Her time was 2:03 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

There is one rural free delivery mail route in the township and three postoffices. The

latter are located as follows: Ferdinand, in the southeast corner of the township, with Mrs. Ryan as postmistress; Foster, on Section 17, with J. H. Foster as postmaster; and Wrayville, in the center, with Helen Wray as postmistress. The name "Wrayville," was suggested by James Britton, who was teaching school at that point, when a name was wanted.

The educational advantages of the township are fully equal to those of any agricultural community. We have nine schools whose districts are wholly within the township, and two union schools, one being in the district reaching into Mercer County.

#### DRURY'S LANDING.

Was nothing but a steamboat landing, and at one time in the early days, considerable shipping was done from its old warehouse. Just back of the Landing a village named Richmond was platted by S. R. Drury, and filed May 7, 1843, and affirmed by the County Commissioners. It was five blocks long, only one block deep, with one side street sixty feet wide, running back from the Mississippi River, a slough bordering the place on both east and west sides.

#### ILLINOIS CITY

Is situated in both Drury and Buffalo Prairie Townships. It is not an incorporated village. Has a church, two stores, a hotel, blacksmith shop, postoffice with two rural mail routes, public school and public square, and about fifty houses, with a population of a little over two hundred. Illinois City was laid out at an early date, and quite extensively platted, its owner anticipating great results. For some years the village thrived nicely, but when the railroad came a few miles away, trade was diverted, and ruined the prospects of Illinois City.

#### CITY OF ROCK ISLAND.

The City of Rock Island is a well laid-out and substantially built town, containing a



population of about 32,000. In our recently issued city directory is given 14,055 names; which by the usual multiple of 2½ would give us a population of 31,624. It is situated on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, at the foot of the Upper Rapids, and just below the western extremity of Rock Island, from which it derives its name. The situation of the city is one of the most beautiful that can be imagined. The bluffs on the Iowa side approach the shore, so that the City of Davenport lies chiefly on the hillsides; on the Rock Island side the hills recede to a distance of more than a mile, leaving a broad and beautiful plain on which the city is built. This plain is sufficiently elevated to afford a dry and healthy location, and is bounded by the river in front, forming a graceful curve southward at the lower end of the city, and in the rear of the distant hills, which form a charming background to the city plat. Here the space is amply sufficient for a city of a hundred thousand inhabitants. From almost any point of observation in this city the views are fine. They combine a landscape of mingled art and nature; the cities of Davenport, Rock Island and Moline, with their tall spires and smoking factories; the Island of Rock Island in the broad bright channel of the Mississippi, and connected with both shores by its magnificent iron bridges. Looking up the river toward the Island, the bridges, with their piers and spans, are seen stretching across a space of three quarters of a mile, at the point formerly occupied by old Fort Armstrong, while in the distance rises the tall smoke stacks of the Government works, the Arsenal and Armory—almost hidden in the trees—which in this part of the Island have been preserved, and the grounds converted into a beautiful sylvan park. About the center of the Island, from a tall flag staff erected on top of a high structural iron pier, floats the Stars and Stripes—symbol of national authority.

The Island, the Arsenal works and grounds, and the wonderful improvements of the water power, constitute the chief points of attraction to visitors at Rock Island.

#### EARLY HISTORY FARNHAMSBURG AND STEPHENSON.

The City of Rock Island was preceded by the Town of Farnhamsburg, the first settlement on this side of the river within the present City limits. Here the first house was built by Colonel Davenport and Russell Farnham, partners in the Indian trade, in 1826. It stood near the landing from old Fort Armstrong, about a block south of the southern approach to the present railroad bridge over Sylvan Water, and on an elevated lime stone knoll. The county road from the east ran in front of it, and turned from the Moline road to the west of the Lemuel Andrews residence—now Honorable Ben T. Cable's residence—and down along where is now the Burlington and Milwaukee Railroad tracks, until it reached Twenty-fourth Street, where it met old Illinois Street, now Second Avenue. The house was a noted place in the early history of Rock Island County. Here the County Government was formed, the first elections held, and the first postoffice established; it was the seat of the Circuit and County Courts from 1833 to 1835. In the latter year, this original seat of justice of the county was superseded by the Town of Stephenson, and a village laid out in what is now the lower part of the City of Rock Island. It was laid out by the commissioners authorized by the Legislature to establish the seat of justice for Rock Island County, and contained the old county grounds, with a portion of the county buildings. There are still standing many of the earlier buildings erected by the pioneers and here were inaugurated many of the first institutions of Rock Island. Stephenson was the cradle of Rock Island, the nursery of much of that intellectual and social life which has since expanded into the larger and intenser life of the city.

The founder of the first newspaper here, in 1839, thus speaks of the old Town of Stephenson, as it appeared to him in 1840:

"The inhabitants of the town and its environs could not be surpassed, if equalled, by any city in the west, for men of intelligence—courteous and kind in everything. Our judiciary consisted of Judge Stone, who was very soon superseded by Judge Brown; our bar consisted of Joseph Knox, Joseph B. Wells, J. Wilson Drury, and H. G. Reynolds; the clerk of the court was an old bachelor, Joseph Conway, brother of Miles Conway, who, with a Mr. Cooper, composed the magistracy of the village; while our medical department was represented by Doctor Gregg alone, a man eminent in his profession.

"There were three stores in the place, kept by John Meller, Lemuel Andrews and a Mr. Kauffman. Two more came afterwards, viz: Mr. Bond and Mr. Moore. There was one tinning establishment, Lee & Chamberlin's; one saddler shop, J. M. Frizzell's; one cabinet maker's and one gunsmith's shop; three taverns, Mr. Bently's on the river bank; Buffum's, back of the Court House Square; and the Rock Island House on Main Street, kept by VanCourt & Brothers. This was the leading hotel at that day. There was one restaurant, and one other, called a saloon for the want of a more appropriate name. One minister of the gospel (Presbyterian), Reverent Mr. Stewart, preached in a little school-house back of Doctor Gregg's residence on Main Street—our only church, lyceum and town hall. \* \* \* The Powars family, Guarnseys and old Mr. Vandruff, who lived on the island in Rock River, and kept a ferry at the Rapids, and something for the inner man, were among the first settlers of Rock Island. There were but few places of any note above Quincy, Illinois. Where Keokuk now stands there was a trading post kept by a half-breed, who sold liquor to the Sac and Fox Indians, and engaged in towing barges over the rapids with horses, to Fort Mont-

rose. At the east side of the Mississippi, at the head of the rapids, at a place then called Commerce, was situated a stone warehouse, where passing steamers discharged freight for the surrounding country. The Mormons had a short time previously been driven out of Missouri, and they encamped on the west bank of the river, awaiting transportation to the Illinois side to build the City of Nauvoo, and their wagons and equipages presented the appearance of an army encamped. The town of Burlington, Iowa, had but few houses. \* \* \* Bloomington, now Muscatine, contained about six houses, and had the appearance of being a very sickly place, if I could judge from the looks of the citizens who came aboard the steamer.";

This had reference to the Summer of 1838, when the writer, Mr. C. McGrew, came up the river. In all the distance described, from Quincy to the lead mines at Galena, Stephenson was then the most noted steamboat landing. Here for many years, travelers from the "Sangamon Country" and Fort Clark, reached the river on their way to Galena, and the mineral regions north.

#### TOWN OF ROCK ISLAND.

The Town of Rock Island came into being as a new edition of Stephenson, enlarged and revised by an act of the Legislature, passed in March, 1841. This act changed the name to Rock Island, and incorporated the latter as a town under a board of nine trustees. The trustees of the old village held over until the next annual election in September, but a special election was held on the first Monday in April for four other trustees, who, together with the five old trustees, constituted the new board. The additional trustees elected were: John Buford, George W. Lynde, Lemuel Andrews and James M. Bellows.

The boundaries of this town, as defined by this act, were made to include "all that portion of land contained within the limits of the plat of the town of Stephenson, and all

the additions thereto, as set forth in the recorder's office in the County of Rock Island." By consulting the records we found that the following additions had been made: Thomas and Wells' Addition, April 5, 1836; Spencer and Case's Addition, May 17, 1836; and Jones, Garnsey and Beardsley's, known as the Chicago or Lower Addition, October 22, 1836. As is well known, numerous additions have since been made to the city, extending its limits to something like ten square miles, viz: About two miles and a quarter in average width, by about three and a half miles in length. It was invested with a city charter by "An Act to Charter the City of Rock Island," February 12, 1849. February 16, 1857, a more comprehensive charter was granted. November 4, 1879, by an election the incorporation was changed, and an organization effected under the general laws of the State, of 1872. A canvass of the votes by the City Council November 10, 1879, affirmed for organization, under the new general law, and on December 10, 1879, was certified to and made of record in the County Court. Its eastern boundary coincides with the western corporate limits of the City of Moline, and thus the two cities adjoin, and are connected by three street railways, as well as by the regular passenger trains of four railroad systems.

The nearest approach to a "boom" experienced by Rock Island was in 1854, when the old Chicago and Rock Island Railroad reached Rock Island in January of that year, being the first railroad to reach the Mississippi River; but in 1857, a year of panic, and heavy migration west, gave us a few years set-back; we regained, however, in good time, and since have had a steady, legitimate growth, one to be proud of. From that period the city began to move west in its building operations, and of late years, both east, west and south. The greatest credit for the vast and rapid improvement now enjoyed by Rock Island may be ascribed to

the Citizens Improvement Association. The proposer of the association was Richard Crampton, who, coming from a trip east, recognized that we were stagnant, needed a push and stir, and his ideas interested W. T. Medill, Will R. Johnston, Dr. Willard A. Paul, Fred Hass and others, and the association was organized. They advocated and secured, through the good offices of the City Council, the special assessment tax for home improvement.

This organization of business men performing the same beneficial work now being accomplished by the Rock Island Club. It was mainly through the efforts of the association and club that the paving of our streets was secured, new additions were laid out into city lots, sidewalks brought to a high standard, factories encouraged, and others secured, the force at the Arsenal enlarged, new bridges constructed, new railroads promoted, a new Federal building secured; all these materially increasing the population, and adding strength and reputation to the city.

Rock Island has a strong urban population, beautiful homes, cheap fuel, the finest of coal at our very door, an abundance of water furnished by a fine combined system of water works, a large water power adjacent to ourselves and neighboring city, awaiting development, a wealthy farming district surrounding us, and a location that capital and labor can both appreciate. There are few cities that can boast of, and offer more advantages for investment, than the City of Rock Island. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy; the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and the Davenport, Rock Island and Northwestern Railroads entering her boundaries—each of the great roads supplying every facility for both passenger and freight traffic. There is also a net work of electric surface cars running to Davenport, Moline, East Moline, Silvis, Milan, Watertown, Rock Island Arsenal, and a score of pleasure resorts, giving her one of

the finest street car systems anywhere. Her prosperity is evidenced by the parks and drives, which excite the admiration of all visitors; her substantial and commodious schools and colleges, the large number of churches of all prominent denominations, shops and stores of every kind, and manufacturing with millions of capital, giving employment to thousands of men. A plow factory which ranks with the best in the country, a large stove factory of prominence, an immense table oil cloth factory, a brewery with 1,500 barrel capacity, soda and mineral water factories, candy factories, immense lumber, sash door and blind interests, large insurance agencies, good hospitals, ample police and fire protection, the best of hotels, has a magnificent public library, which is a home production.

#### EARLY NAMES OF OUR STREETS.

In the original plat of the town of Stephenson the alleys were named. The main streets running east and west, parallel with the river, were: Mississippi, Illinois, Orleans, Rock River, and Moline Avenue; its continuations being Highland, and Canal Streets. The alley between Mississippi Street and Illinois Street was named Cherry Alley, then came Violet, Pink and Rose Alleys; between Orleans and Rock River Streets, Peach and Plum Alleys; between Illinois and Orleans Streets, running north and south, in the blocks east and west of the Court House. The names are surely not suggestive of some of our present alleys.

Streets and Avenues—old names and new:

#### NEW. ORIGINAL.

- 1st. —Pike, and Pine.
- 2d. —St. Clair
- 3d. —Monroe.
- 4th. —Carroll.
- 5th. —Huron.
- 6th. —Main.
- 7th. —Pearl.
- 8th. —Ontario.
- 9th. —Exchange.

- 10th. —Ohio.
- 11th. —Swan.
- 12th. —Otter.
- 13th. —Beaver, and Short.
- 14th. —Deer, and Stoddard.
- 14½. —Cutter.
- 15th. —Elk.
- 16th. —Buffalo.
- 17th. —Eagle.
- 18th. —Washington.
- 19th. —Jefferson, and Cherry.
- 20th. —Madison.
- 21st. —Adams.
- 22d. —Dock.
- 23d. —Broadway.
- 24th. —Arsenal.
- 25th. —Dayenport, and Keokuk.
- 26th. —Stuckey, and Railroad.
- 27th. —Howard Avenue.
- 28th. —Twenty-eighth.
- 29th. —Columbia, and Twenty-ninth.
- 30th. —Elm.
- 31st. —Andrews.
- 32d. —Kimball, and Thirty-second.
- 33th. —Robbins, or College Avenue.
- 42d. —Sylvan, and Walnut.
- 43d. —Traders.
- 45th. —Brooks Avenue.
- 1st. Ave. —Mississippi, Water and Front Streets.
- 2d. Ave. —Illinois.
- 3d. Ave. —Orleans.
- 4th. Ave. —Rock River.
- 5th. Ave. —Moline Avenue, Highland, and Canal Streets.
- 6th. Ave. —Commercial, Commerce, Pleasant, Green, Cable, Grove, and Sherman Streets.
- 7th. Ave. —Toledo, and Spencer Streets, and Second Avenue.
- 8th. Ave. —Barnard, and Harper Streets.
- 8½ Ave. —Clark Street.
- 9th. Ave. —Indian Boundary Street, and Prospect Street, and Ninth Avenue in Edgewood Park.
- 11th. Ave. —Atkinson Street.
- 9½ Ave. —Toledo, and Union Streets.



The first brick store in Rock Island was built by Lemuel Andrews, and is still in existence, just east of the Court House, and now occupied by Mrs. Roessler, adjoining the old frame house built and occupied by Mr. Andrews, and long occupied by Mrs. Benjamin Cobb. This old brick building was a general store, kept by Andrews and McMasters. Mr. Andrews later building on the site of the present E. P. Reynolds' homestead, a good brick residence with a large porch around three sides, and facing the slough, beside the county road, where the railroad tracks now are.

Mr. Andrews afterward built the large, costly mansion known as the Cable residence. He also built the first saw and grist mill in the lower end of town, in 1841. The first boat yard was established by J. C. Holt, in 1841, succeeded by Bailey and Boyle, about where the present Arsenal viaduct bridge is located. They later established a large general store in a new brick block, on the present site of the Mitchell and Lynde block.

The principal early-time book store was that of H. A. Porter and Brother, in 1849, located on the south side of Illinois Street, between Buffalo and Eagle Streets. At one time their chief clerk was Richard Crampton, who arrived here from New York May 1, 1854, and ever since has been in the book business in this city. H. A. Porter and Brother went to Chicago in 1858, where they established the Chicago Type Foundry. Mr. Crampton succeeding to their book business, later forming a partnership with John G. Devoe, who at one time was a proof reader for Horace Greeley on the old New York *Tribune*, the firm becoming Devoe and Crampton. They started in at the old stand, afterwards moving to Frank Warren's old store, where Sam Wright now is, and then to the old postoffice building of L. M. Webber, on which site Miss Byrnes is now in business. Later they moved into a new building erected by Tom Plummer, the old livery man, in the

center of the same block, where his old livery stable was, the first story being below the street. The building was quite a distance from the sidewalk, having a very wide and long platform making a carriage way to the second story, nearly even with the street. Afterwards the firm moved across the street to the Peter Fries building, located nearly on the site of the old W. H. Whitman residence, which Mr. Fries and family at one time occupied, where Young and McCombs now are. Devoe and Crampton's store was the political and newspaper headquarters of the city, everybody going there after supper for the Chicago papers and talk. Those were lively, chatty evenings. At one time they had a prominent elevated sign in front of the store on the outer edge of the sidewalk representing a very large wheel, the spokes of which advertised their wares, and on the rim was the motto by which the establishment was long known—"The Moral Center of the Intellectual World."

Where Bengston's block is, in the early fifties, stood an old two-story long frame building, called Doty's Row, built in the forties. In 1855 Smith and Lathrop leased forty feet of the ground on the corner for twenty years, at a yearly rental of four hundred dollars and taxes, and tearing down the old Doty Row, they built a three-story brick block, which they later sold to E. H. Smythe. It was called the E. H. Smythe block, a covered stairway running up the outside of the building, as does the present Bengston block, built on this old site in 1875. E. H. and H. A. Smythe were old clothiers here, having been preceded by Knox and Company.

The chief caterers were Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, two respected colored people, who will be remembered by a great many of the old timers. At their restaurant the best supper, game, steaks and chops, could be had, none better since their day; game, especially, being very plentiful. Quail could be bought

for twenty-five cents per dozen in those days, and prairie chickens in comparison. Mrs. Butcher often served families at their home parties.

The Butchers were located in a good sized frame house, back of the old Rock Island House toward the river, on old West Eagle Street. They had an unusually bright, smart son, and there was no better dressed man in town than Al. Butcher. Dame Rumor says he used to wax the white boys at poker; no names mentioned. He paid a short visit here a year ago from Memphis, his home now, where he was made provost marshal after the War of the Rebellion.

The main provider for the inner man was old Fred Ridenbaugh, who conducted the old Young America—called the Empire—on Market Square, a place where the best men in town went for a supper, oyster stew, or drink—business men, lawyers and doctors. At his demise, according to his desire, the funeral was held from the First Presbyterian Church, its pastor, Reverend S. T. Wilson, officiating.

One of the very early butcher shops, in 1852, was that of L. Buttrick, situated in Market Square, near the present drinking fountain and hay scales. It was a small, one-story frame building, boards running up and down, with a small shed addition in the rear, and all whitewashed.

The first foundry and machine shop was established by Webber, Boyd and Company, in 1849, on the corner of Illinois and Broadway Streets, succeeded by C. C. Webber and Company, and known as the Union Foundry. One door east, in 1855, was established the office of Lowry, Thomas and Company, proprietors of the Carbon Cliff Coal Mining Company. In 1853 N. B. and T. J. Buford built a foundry and machine shop on Water Street east of Buffalo. Another good old foundry man, an expert, was W. H. Thompson, who in 1856 had the Vulcan Foundry near Broadway and Moline Avenue, facing

what is now Twenty-fourth Street. His son, David C. Thompson, for the past thirty-six years superintendent of the foundry at Rock Island Arsenal, became, under the tutelage of his father, an adept. W. H. Thompson was a great "Bobby Burns" man, and always recognized his birthday. He could quote Burns galore, and with the genuine Scotch idiom.

John Bulley, an Englishman, in 1855 kept a crockery store on the corner of Buffalo and Rock River Streets, and was an importer of china, crockery and glassware. The building was a long one-story frame building, the boards running up and down, and white-washed both inside and outside. He was commonly spoken of as the "bully man."

Lee and Wilmans had another crockery store in 1854, in a frame building just east of the present Central Presbyterian Church, north of the Court House.

John Bengston came here in 1862, clerking in the drug store of C. H. Fahnestock, in the center of the block east of Buffalo Street. The store was conducted afterwards by Fahnestock and Lewis, and then by Charles A. Benser, who moved to the corner of Eagle and Illinois Streets, the present place of T. H. Thomas, where the old corner has had Cook, Sargent and Parker's bank, the grocery stores of M. S. Herrick, and Charles M. Knox, son of Joe Knox, one of our old time lawyers. There have also been two drug stores on this site.

J. K. Bard, in the middle sixties, kept a grocery store called the "Painted Barrels," located under Dart's Hall. The store took its name from a prominent elevated sign of a barrel painted in varied colors.

In the centre of the block between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets, in the early sixties, used to be a large sized nursery display grounds for the Hakes Nursery, which was in the rear of Holmes Hakes residence, now Joseph Rosenfield's residence, on Seventh Avenue near Eighteenth Street. A two-story

brick building was built there afterwards, occupied by W. C. and H. T. Wadsworth as a dry goods store; they were succeeded by Mitchell and Parsons. Next door west, in 1854, was the grocery store of Gray Brothers, Tom and Jessie. Near where Carse's Block now is, a heavy set man, known by the name of "Puff and Windy Smith," had a dry goods and general store.

Henry Hensman started a stove store and tin shop in 1845, in the center of the post-office block on Illinois Street, next door to a butcher shop kept by James Copp, senior, and his son, George. Mr. Hensman sometime later moved to the present Buford Block, leaving Rock Island for Denver in 1863. He was succeeded by Hass and Kane, and afterwards by Michael Kane, J. B. Danforth being a silent partner. In 1855 George Whisler kept a grocery and seed store next to Copp's meat market; next door was Eric Okerberg, who came to Rock Island in 1851, said to be the first watchmaker in Rock Island County.

In 1852 David Bowen and brother kept a one-story, good sized frame grocery store on the present postoffice corner.

In 1862 David Don opened a stove store and tin shop on Illinois Street just east of the present Illinois Theatre. Robert Don, in 1860, ran a bakery where the Beecher property is, just west of Carse's Hall. The old-time baker was Charley Yates, on Illinois Street east of Buffalo, and then Jake Aster on Market Square. For years Ernest Krell was baker, confectioner and caterer; always ready to assist the ladies at their church socials. W. B. Sargent started a small grocery store in 1860 on the corner of Illinois and Washington Streets, where the Peoples National Bank stands, afterwards having as a partner, Harry Williams, then David Hawes. After Major C. W. Hawes, his son, returned from the Army, he bought his father's interest. The store was a small frame building, painted a reddish brown, and

Sargent and Hawes used to advertise it as the "Dilapidated Corner." It made way for future improvements. Mr. Sargent and his son, Nute, in 1868, bought out the grocery store of J. B. Plummer, under the old Rodman House.

Warnock and Kelly started the first soap factory, prior to 1855, advertising as manufacturers of "candles, variegated soaps, and common soaps, and dealers in soda—ash and rosin." This manufactory was near the boat yard.

In December, 1859, Archie and Tom Shaw commenced pork packing on the present site of James S. Gilmore's packing house, and continued until 1870, when they went to Chicago, and James S. Gilmore succeeded to the business, which he has carried on ever since, making a continuous pork packing business for over forty-eight years at the same place.

Joseph and Mayer Rosenfield started business in 1856, in hides and leather findings, in a one and one-half story building next to Gray Brothers' grocery store, on the north side of Illinois Street, between Buffalo and Eagle Streets, afterwards moving to the Iglehart corner, then to the N. B. Buford Block, east of Carse's Hall, and afterwards to more commodious quarters at 1628 Second Avenue.

#### SOME OLD-TIME MERCHANTS AND CITIZENS IN 1855 AND PRIOR.

H. L. Abbott, "daguemean artist," Illinois Street, east of Buffalo.

Ainsworth and Lynde, "Boston Store," dry goods and groceries, corner Water and Washington Streets.

Christopher Atkinson, brickmaker and builder, on Bluff Road near the old grave yard, afterwards locating at the present corner of Seventh Avenue and Thirtieth Street, and later on Thirtieth Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues.

William R. Ayres, painter, in basement of old Methodist Church.

Hawes and Babcock, David Hawes and George M. Babcock, stone quarry and lime kiln, south side of Moline Avenue, now Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street. David Hawes came here in 1835, returning to Nashville, and coming back in 1837.

John Barge, school teacher and City Clerk.

Barnes and Randel, old saw mill, above railroad bridge, afterwards the site of the second Chicago and Rock Island railroad round house, the first round house being built on the north side of Illinois Street, at the foot of Broadway Street.

Barrett and Cobb, auction store, Illinois and West Eagle Streets.

John Beierlein, old time cooper, located on the corner of Rock River and Elk Streets.

William Bell, carpenter and builder, one of our foremost citizens, quiet in manner, and a most thorough man was "Uncle Billy Bell."

A. Benedict and Company, shoes, leather belting, etc., Illinois Street, west of Buffalo.

Block and Loewenthal, clothing store, south side of Illinois Street, west of Eagle.

Blythe and Stoddard, wagon and carriage makers, corner of Eagle and Orleans Streets, the old shop being operated afterwards by Thomas Hooper.

W. T. Riggs, watchmaker and jeweler, between Washington and Eagle Streets, commenced business in the Spring of 1850.

J. M. Moore, in 1847, erected a two-story brick building on the northeast corner of Illinois and Buffalo Streets. In 1860 the main store was remodeled, another story put on, and a residence erected, adjoining the rear of the store, which was the first hardware firm.

Clasius and Speidel, druggists, on the corner of Illinois and East Eagle Streets, in the Buford Block. Dr. Clacius coming here in 1858, Mr. Speidel joined him the following year. They sometime later sold out to Gleim and Hinckley, John Bengston buying the stock March 15, 1868, building and moving to his present quarters in 1875.

John H. Langley and Company, George W. D. Harris being the company, forwarding and commission merchants, steamboat agents, agricultural implements, cement, fire brick, etc. Water Street west of Madison Street. They were successors to E. T. Sawyer and Company, prior to 1855.

Peter Fries, wholesale dealer in wines and liquors, on the southeast corner of Washington and Water Streets, commenced business in 1855, with F. W. Kellerstrass, who retired in 1861. The location was the old "Boston Store" of Cornelius Lynde, senior and junior.

Biddison and Gilmore, composed of Joseph A. Biddison, George E. Biddison and William F. Gilmore. Planing Mill and corn mill, on the corner of Washington and Rock River Streets; commenced business in 1853.

Warner Mills, built in 1856, corner of Washington and Highland Streets, was a four-story brick building, originally built for a barrel factory, but converted into a flouring mill, with a capacity of two hundred and forty barrels of flour a day. The flour mill was first run by Baker and Gilmore, then by John Warner and L. C. Burwell, afterwards by John R. Warner, who later built on a heavy frame addition for a sash, door and blind factory, and planing mill, now occupied by the Rock Island Stair Works. There is still in existence on the premises one of the first artesian wells drilled in the city, one hundred and fifteen feet deep.

C. H. Leas and son, T. Silas Leas, built the first steam flouring mill, in the Winter of 1854, on Water Street east of Exchange, W. H. Hayes being their head miller.

William W. Langdell, blacksmith and farmer, Moline Avenue, near Littig's brewery.

Reaugh and Cameron, shingle factory near the boat yard.

Hakes and Riggs, watches and jewelry, Illinois Street, west of Buffalo.

Jacob Sailor, saddlery, harness and trunk manufactory, Illinois west of Washington.



Sargent and Bollman, blacksmiths, Eagle Street south of Illinois.

Amos Stillman, County surveyor, 1855.

Henry Curtis, junior, City surveyor and civil engineer, whose work can still be seen on many of the original plats on file in the Court House.

W. L. Sweeney, wagon maker (1855) and Cyrus Churchill, blacksmith (1855), must have joined forces shortly after, as the old firm of Churchill and Sweeney existed for years on Eagle Street south of Orleans.

Whitaker and Everts, dry goods, Illinois west of Eagle.

Uridge Whiffen, ornamental painter, an old timer and still on earth, generally known as John Whiffen.

Peter L. Hig, brewery, on Moline Avenue east of Andrews Street (1855).

Charles B. Knox, undertaker, Rock River and Madison Streets.

John Lusk, collector on ferry boat, afterwards ran a hack between Rock Island and Moline.

Bill Kale and Charley Fisher, barbers.

H. A. J. McDonald, carpenter and builder, on Rock River Street east of Broadway, was the father of our present postmaster.

A. J. Swanson, boots and shoes, started in 1856 on the south side of Illinois Street east of Buffalo and next door to Graham's stove store, and was afterwards, for many years, near the old Island City Hotel and Harper House.

John Harper and Alexander Steel came from Chillicothe, Ohio, to Rock Island in 1855, and started a hardware store at the present location of the Rock Island Savings Bank. They continued in business together until 1865, when John Harper removed to Denver and started in the hardware business there. They were succeeded by Harper and Company, a firm composed of William Harper, a brother of John, and his brother-in-law, J. R. McCalister, then of Aledo, Illinois, the latter being a silent partner. In 1857

William Harper died after a brief illness, and Mr. McCalister took charge of the business. On September 1, 1869, J. W. Stewart moved to Rock Island from Dayton, Ohio, and took Mr. Harper's interest, the firm being McCalister and Stewart. In 1874 Mr. McCalister sold his interest to James M. Montgomery, then of Andalusia, Illinois. The firm, Stewart and Montgomery, continued until 1892, when J. W. Stewart bought Mr. Montgomery's interest and continued the business alone until 1905, being then succeeded by the present owners, the Rock Island Hardware Company. The business has been in but two locations since the beginning, namely: The Second Avenue and Seventeenth Street corner from 1855 to 1877, and the Dart corner, Second Avenue and Eighteenth Street, from 1877 to the present time.

Quincy McNiell, school teacher in the little brick school house in Union Square, was one who used the rod and was for many years a strenuous figure around the Court House, being at one time Circuit Clerk.

C. S. Newberry and Brother, painters, Eagle and Water Streets.

Jacob Norris, furniture dealer, corner of Illinois and Elk Streets, was a well known character and politician.

Childs and Baker, dry goods, crockery, etc., Illinois Street, east of Buffalo.

Elton C. Cropper, builder and carpenter, East Eagle, north of Illinois; afterwards Police Magistrate.

David L. Cunkle, millstone manufacturer, and dealer in flour mill supplies, Illinois Street, west of Jefferson.

Fisk and Lee, brokers and insurance agents, East Eagle Street, north of Illinois.

Tim Babcock, wholesale grocer, near *Argus* office.

W. Hurst, fruit and confectionery, Illinois Street, east of Buffalo.

Charles Jeanneret, watchmaker and jeweler, Illinois Street, west of Washington.

George D. Bromley, dry goods, jewelry, etc., Illinois Street, west of Buffalo.

N. B. Buford Block, the red brick building near the northwest corner of Illinois and Buffalo Streets.

Bulkley and Pleasant's Gothic Block, north side of Illinois Street, between East Eagle and Washington Streets.

Physicians: Patrick Gregg; Brackett and Bulkley; Judd and Rathbun, eclectic; W. F. Cady; Calvin Truesdale; S. G. Plummer; William A. Knox.

In 1858 Henry Tremann and Augustus Tremann opened a butcher shop on the north side of Illinois Street, between Elk and Buffalo Streets.

In 1855 Frederick Kramer, carpenter, Moline Avenue, east of Andrews Street.

1833. Reverend Asa McMurty was the first clergyman, and that year, or the year following, organized a Methodist Episcopal Church.

1834. Charles H. and L. L. Case built the first house in Stephenson on the corner of Water and Beaver Streets. The building was used as a Court House until 1837, when the first Court House was built in Court House Square, being the first brick building in town. The first hotel in Stephenson was opened by Walter Phillips on Orleans Street, opposite the Court House.

1835. This Spring the town was surveyed by Charles Bennett, who was the first surveyor. J. H. Coon was the first brick maker and brick layer.

1836. James Copp opened the first butcher stall, also packed the first pork. William Lathrop was the first wagon maker. Israel Showdy the first blacksmith. Morgan Ferguson the first painter. Adam Y. Smith the first lawyer. Doctor P. Gregg opened an office, and kept drugs and medicines for sale. The first school house was erected on the corner of Orleans and Otter Streets.

1837. First jewelry store opened by R. H. Kinney. The first dentist was J. B. Branch,

who had an office in the Rock Island House.

1838. Jacob Sailor was the first harness maker and saddler, and John Thompson the first cooper.

1839. The first stove store, tin and sheet iron factory opened by Lee and Chamberlin. Marcus B. Osborn was the first land agent.

1840. Joseph Johnson, the first chair-maker.

1841. Name of Stephenson, changed to Rock Island.

1843. B. F. Barrett opened the first lumber yard.

1845. The first forwarding and commission house opened by Henry Powars.

1846. First livery stable by Joseph H. Barnett.

1849. First telegraph office opened, connecting with eastern lines via St. Louis; Chicago communication was opened in 1853.

1850. First skylight daugerrean gallery by Erastus Downey. A. Benedict and Company opened an extensive store of boots and shoes, leather belting, saddlery, hardware, and carriage trimmings, French and American calf skins, shoe thread, lasts, boot trees, awls and tacks. N. B. Buford and M. B. Clark being the Company, location Illinois, west of Buffalo Street.

1851. The Collegiate Institute and Female Seminary. The four-story brick building in rear of the Rock Island Club house, and facing Third Avenue, was built and opened in 1852, by Reverend J. W. Dennison as principal.

Rock Island Gas, Light and Coke Company, the first gas company in the city, was organized June 24, 1854, and has been in successful operation since January 1, 1855. The original stock was \$100,000; Jacob Riley coming from Pittsburgh to install the plant. During 1854 the company laid one and a half miles of street mains, had over one hundred private consumers, and thirty public lamps. They contemplated laying pipes to Moline during 1855, but the extension was not made until

1888. Benjamin Harper was proprietor for some time, later selling out to Sylvester Watts of St. Louis. W. H. Judge was the superintendent up to 1892, when the property was sold to the Brush Electric Light Company, and in 1893 transferred to the Peoples Power Company, who at the present time have forty-five to fifty miles of street mains.

The Rock Island County Agricultural Society, situated in the town of Rock Island for a number of years, on the old Camden road north of Cooperstown, was organized in 1853, holding fairs in October of each year. At its first fair \$150.95 was distributed in premiums.

1854. February 22d the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad being completed, the first train arrived. A big celebration was given, and an excursion of six steamboats carried the railroad officials and noted visitors to St. Paul.

1855. The Methodist portion of Church Square was purchased by the City and the name changed to Union Square, and enclosed with a neat fence. The first exclusive hat and cap store opened by Cook and Spangler. First exclusive music store started by J. T. Croft. First regular millinery and fancy dry goods store by Strickland and Judd.

In 1855 there were four hundred and thirty-four business places in Rock Island, including professional men.

In October, 1839, was published the first local directory, only mentioning town officers, hotels, professional men and merchants.

Physicians and Druggists: Haviland and Gregory, P. Gregg, J. R. Hadsell (botanic), Silas Reed, H. Beardsley.

Lawyers: J. Wilson Drury (office in Shop of Dr. Gregg), J. B. Wells, H. G. Reynolds.

Tinners: Lee and Chamberlin.

Shoemakers: Elihu Turner, John Metzgar.

Bricklayers and Plasterers: W. H. Sage, J. M. Bellows.

Coopers: John Thompson, J. Millenan.

Draymen: John Thompson.

Butchers: James Copp, Robert Dunlap and Company.

Watchmaker: R. H. Kinney.

Blacksmiths: Hibbard Moore, J. Shonde.

Saddlers and Harnessmakers: Jacob Sailor, J. M. Frizzell.

#### STAGE AND PACK ROUTES IN 1855.

Rock Island and Moline Hacks run as follows: Leave Rock Island at 8, 9:30 and 11 o'clock A. M., and at 1, 2:30 and 5 o'clock P. M.; leave Moline at 7:15, 9:15 and 11 o'clock A. M., and 1, 3 and 4 o'clock P. M. Packages of less than one hundred and fifty pounds weight carried carefully and delivered promptly.

Camden and Rock Island Hack leaves Camden at 8 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M.; leaves Rock Island at 11 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M.

Stages for Galena and Dixon, via Port Byron, leave the Rock Island House every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning at 7:30 o'clock. For Macomb at the same time and place. For Knoxville, every Tuesday and Saturday morning as above.

#### ROCK ISLAND POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice in this county was established in connection with old Fort Armstrong, April 23, 1825, Colonel George Davenport being the first postmaster. Owing to the fact that there was no one to administer the obligations of the position Mr. Davenport served a number of years without taking an oath. April 4, 1834, the first postoffice was established upon the mainland and Joseph Conway was made the first postmaster. The office was first located at Farnhamsburg, but when Stephenson became the county seat it was removed to somewhere in the neighborhood of what is now Seventeenth Street. In 1843, when Colonel John Buford was postmaster, the office was located between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets on First Avenue. In 1849 it was removed to Second Avenue between Seventeenth and Eighteenth

Streets. In 1853 Bailey and Boyle's building, in the rear of where Mitchell and Lynde's building now stands, was occupied. Three years later another removal to the south side of Second Avenue, No. 1704, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets, was made, but in 1861 Bailey and Boyle's building was again occupied, the office remaining there till the removal to the present quarters in the federal building in December, 1896.

The different postmasters since the establishing of the office with the term during which they served are as follows:

Joseph Conway, 1834-1836; Miles W. Conway, 1836-1840; Joseph B. Wells, 1840-1841; Colonel John Buford, 1841-1847; Harmon G. Reynolds, 1847-1849; Elbridge R. Bean, 1849-1853; James Kelly, 1853-1855; William Frizzell, 1855-1856; Lewis M. Webber, 1856-1858; Herman Field, 1858-1861; Doctor Calvin Truesdale, 1861-1865; John B. Hawley, 1865-1866; Captain James F. Copp, 1866-1867; Marcus B. Osborn, 1867-1871; Captain L. M. Haverstick, 1871-1873; William Jackson, 1873-1876; Thomas Murdock, 1876-1880; Major J. M. Beardsley, 1880-1884; Major Charles W. Hawes, 1884-1888; August Huesing, 1888-1889; Howard Wells, 1889-1893; J. W. Potter, 1893-1897; T. H. Thomas, 1897-1906; Hugh A. J. McDonald, 1906.

As one of the best indications of the manner in which the city has grown, the receipts of the postoffice at different periods during the past twenty-three years are given:

1884.....	\$15,441.84	1900.....	\$69,250.91
1885.....	18,829.63	1901.....	77,881.96
1889.....	23,560.38	1902.....	75,429.97
1892.....	29,749.63	1903.....	74,108.17
1896.....	30,721.84	1904.....	78,660.29
1897.....	34,495.95	1905.....	87,983.22
1898.....	43,205.80	1906.....	88,375.64
1899.....	57,440.11	1907.....	96,731.67

The free delivery system was inaugurated in 1888 with five carriers. The money order department does an unusually large amount of business for a city the size of Rock Island.

Twenty-nine mails are received and thirty-two dispatched daily. There are now being received daily an average of over 12,000 pieces of first class and 7,000 pieces of other mail. The present office force consists of nineteen clerks, one auxiliary clerk, eighteen carriers, three substitute carriers, one rural carrier, and one special delivery messenger. Ten postal stations are also located throughout the city.

The office has been of the first class since 1898.

Paid money orders in 1907 were 105,469, amounting to \$1,612,671.17.

#### ROCK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT.

In the early days of Rock Island the police force was small, being in proportion to the needs of the city in this respect. As the population increased the number of guardians of the property and peace of the citizens was gradually increased, mainly by the addition of night men. For many years the marshal was the only day man on ordinary occasions. He staid about the city offices and if anything came up demanding his services he went out alone and disposed of the business. About thirty years ago the first attempt was made to prescribe uniforms for the members of the force, but each man was allowed considerable latitude in the matter, with the result that there was a wide variety in the makeups. It is only during the last fifteen years that the officers have been uniformed with any degree of precision in the details of dress.

The force now employed consists of: Chief of police, two desk sergeants, two plain clothes men, a police matron, sixteen patrolmen, and the following apparatus: One rubber tire ambulance, one patrol wagon, one chief's buggy.

#### ROCK ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The old "Bucket Brigade" was followed by the regular Volunteer Fire Department, which was organized in 1856, and a Land engine



purchased, and named "Western No. 1." The engine when received was housed in a new two-story brick building on the north-west corner of Court House Square. Frazer Wilson was elected president, and George E. Biddison foreman. The company was limited to seventy-five members.

Later another company was formed and took the name of "Aquarius No. 2"—motto "Water Bearer." The company having a membership of sixty-five, with George L. Carlton as foreman. The second company organized was the "Rescue No. 2," in 1858, and a double-decker hand engine purchased, named "Rescue No. 2," and stationed in a new engine house on Jefferson Street, between Orleans and Rock River Streets, afterwards Walter Dauber's old blacksmith shop.

The old primitive ladder wagon was a rough convenience, the ladders likewise; the sides being of good sized gin poles, sawed lengthwise in the center, and heavy enough to take eight or ten men to raise them. The first modern Hook and Ladder Truck was purchased in 1874; named the "Reveille," and housed in the Western No. 1 engine house. The Wide Awake Hose Company was expected to run this truck, but arrangements were made for quick word to a livery stable for a span of horses, often running their street hack on the jump to furnish the horses.

The first steam fire engine was purchased in 1869 and named the William Eggleston, and housed in Western No. 1 house. The second fire engine was the Reserve No. 2, purchased in 1871, and housed in Rescue No. 2 hand engine house.

In 1876 the department consisted of five hose companies, one hook and ladder truck, and one steam engine held in reserve, and one hose carriage. The hose companies were the Phoenix No. 1, Wide Awake No. 2, Hope Hose No. 3, Rescue No. 4, Neptune No. 5. The old volunteer chiefs have been George Carlton, Elton C. Cropper, William Kale, S. B. Stoddard, A. Roswog, C. B. Knox,

Jacob Wollenhaupt, Thomas Yates, Patrick Kennedy, Thomas Bollman, in 1876. Harry Hall assistant chief, and James Johnston.

September 2, 1891, the paid Fire Department of the City of Rock Island was organized. Honorable William McConochie, mayor Daniel Corken, B. F. Knox and Winslow P. Tindall fire and light committee. William Ramskill was appointed chief, and Bernard Brahm assistant chief. The department at that time consisted of eight men, including officers. The apparatus included one two-horse hose wagon, and one two-horse ladder truck, that was formerly used by the Volunteer Fire Department. On March 8, 1892, the department was increased by three men, making the total number eleven men. On May 26, 1894, two sub-stations were installed; No. 2 hose company located on Eighth Street, in the building formerly occupied by the Phoenix hose company; and No. 3 hose company located on Twenty-sixth Street; these hose companies consisted of three men each and one two-horse hose wagon. At this time T. J. Medill was mayor, and appointed Bernard Brahm chief of the department, and J. D. Collier assistant chief. In 1895, as mayor, B. F. Knox appointed James Johnston as chief and J. D. Collier as assistant chief. Mr. Johnston had served the old volunteers as their chief with honor and credit to himself and the city. In May, 1897, T. J. Medill being again elected mayor, J. D. Collier was appointed chief, and Peter Frey assistant chief.

In 1899 Charles Hastings was appointed chief under Mayor McConochie's administration, and Peter Frey assistant. Mr. Hastings served as chief without interruption from 1899 until June 1, 1905, when he resigned. Mr. Fred L. Tubbs was appointed chief September 9, 1905, and served until the Spring of 1907, when Mr. Hastings was again appointed chief, and Peter Frey assistant chief; and both are the present incumbents. The recognition of both Mr. Hastings and

Mr. Frey bespeak their merit and efficiency. Mr. Frey has been in continual service as assistant chief since May 5, 1897. As one of the new chiefs says, "a kind word of praise for the volunteer firemen of bygone days should not be amiss; too much praise or credit can not be given these men who in the faithful, voluntary discharge of their duty often endangered their lives and health, while responding to alarms of fire; often contracting serious illness and permanent disability; never receiving one cent of compensation for their services; these heroes of the other days deserve the same credit as the volunteer soldier, but the public as usual in such cases withholds the reward that is due."

At the present time the department force consists of nineteen men; eighteen men being paid full time, and one man acting as substitute when men are laying off through sickness or injuries, or on their annual furlough.

The apparatus of the department consists of three two-horse hose wagons, one two-horse hook and ladder truck, and one chief's buggy.

The truck and chief's buggy are new; the new truck replacing the old Babcock truck which had been in service for thirty-one years.

#### THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM.

August 14, 1871, the city council passed an ordinance authorizing the location of a pumping station near the Rock Island Plow factory, at the west end of the city and the installing of water mains along the business streets, bonds to the amount of \$75,000 being issued to meet the cost. In a few years there began to be complaints that the water was bad, especially after a system of sewers had been built in 1878. The city was divided into two sewer districts, with Seventeenth Street as the dividing line, and the waste of the lower district in particular appears to have affected the water supply. In 1881 the present pumping station at the foot of Twenty-fourth Street was built, P. L. Cable contributing \$25,000 toward its construction. A twenty-

inch inlet pipe, 2,200 feet in length was laid to the channel at the north end of the Government bridge, and two Holly pumps were installed, having a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons a day.

At the end of ten years the consumption of water in the city became so great that these facilities were inadequate. A Gaskell pump with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons daily was installed and a thirty-inch inlet pipe was laid beside the old twenty-inch one to the channel of the river. At this time there was no way in which the water supply could be filtered and at times it was rendered unfit for most uses by the sediment caused by floods. A mechanical filter was donated by Honorable Ben T. Cable as a memorial to that gentleman's father, P. L. Cable, and considerable improvement in the water supply was noted.

The bluffs above the city affording such exceptional advantages for the location of gravity filters and reservoirs, a strong sentiment in favor of such an improvement developed and in 1897 the tract of land now known as Reservoir Park was purchased from a syndicate of Rock Island capitalists for the sum of \$27,600, and the following year the excavation for six basins was begun. The system was adopted in response to the painstaking efforts of the then mayor, T. J. Medill. In 1899 the work was done, but imperfections in the workmanship brought about through blunders on the part of the engineer in charge, developed, and it became necessary to do a great part of the lining of the basins over again. The system is now in perfect working order. Its operating capacity is 3,000,000 gallons daily, which is barely sufficient to supply the city's needs in ordinary times. There are two settling basins, three sand filters and a large clear water basin, the latter having a capacity of 5,500,000 gallons. The water is pumped direct from the river to the settling basins and after filtration it returns to the mains through the action of gravity

which gives sufficient pressure for ordinary purposes.

For fire protection and to furnish the bluff district with water, a stand pipe has been erected on Thirtieth Street and last year an electric pumping station with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons daily was placed near the reservoir.

The total cost of the system to date (August, 1908) has been \$260,000. There are now 4,400 private consumers, and two hundred and fifty fire hydrants, against one hundred and sixty fire hydrants six years ago. The average daily water consumption is 3,000,000 gallons, and daily operating capacity 16,000,000 gallons. There are about forty-five miles of water mains. A new pump was installed at the pumping house in February, 1907, at a cost of \$25,000, which with the addition to the building made a total expenditure of \$40,000.

#### ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC PARKS.

The parks of Rock Island consist of three public squares, and a tract containing about forty acres within the corporate limits, known as Long View Park. The small parks are known respectively as Spencer Square, Garnsey Square and Court House Square.

Spencer Square is situated in what is known as Spencer and Case's Addition, this Addition was laid out in 1836 by John W. Spencer and Jonah Case. What is now known as Spencer Square was not laid out in lots, but in the first instance was occupied in part for school purposes, from April, 1846, to about 1850. The little old one-story brick school house being in the center of the square, the northwest part by the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and the southwest part by the Baptist Church. It ceased to be occupied for school purposes about the year 1850, by the Baptists about 1846, and in the year 1855 the City of Rock Island bought out the claim of the Methodist Church. After the year 1855 it was not occupied for either

church or school purposes. It was fenced in by the City, a large Liberty Pole erected, and trees planted; the fence was removed about the year 1870, since which time it has been in actual use by the public.

Previous to the year 1880, occasionally during periods of high water in the Mississippi River, Spencer Square, then known as Union Square, was flooded. This continued until the grade of Second Avenue was raised. This prevented any further flood on the Square. Previous to 1889 there existed in the City a society known as the Citizens Improvement Association. This association was organized for the purpose of advancing the improvement of the City in matters material.

The first objects of improvement advocated by the association was the paving of the streets and the filling up to grade of Spencer Square; the Square before that time was in a very rough condition. At one time a quarry was opened in the Square by the City, very much to the disgust of Mr. Ben Harper, who in 1870 built what is now known as the Harper House, situated on the west side of the Square. For the purpose of further improvement the City Council appointed the office of park commissioner without salary, to which office Mayor William McConochie appointed William Jackson, a lawyer of the City. Immediately after his appointment Mr. Jackson laid out the Square with cross and interior walks, then called upon the citizens for donations of statuary, vases, arches and other ornaments, the principal ornament was a fountain donated by Honorable Ben T. Cable and Mrs. Lucy Castleman.

In 1892 a granite statute of the Indian Chief, Black Hawk, was presented by Otis J. Dimick, of Chicago, who for many years was a resident of Rock Island. Many citizens contributed to the ornamentation, costing altogether about \$6,500. When completed the Square was conceded to be one of the handsomest in the northwest, the pride of the

citizens of Rock Island. Judge Spencer, after whom the Square is named, came to Rock Island about the year 1828, and resided here until his death in 1878. He was a kind, Christian gentleman, held in high regard by all the people. The Square was named after him in 1885.

About the year 1871 the heirs of Jonah Case endeavored to recover from the City an undivided half of the Square, claiming that the purposes of the dedication of the Square by the proprietors had been abandoned by the City and others, and that the Jonah Case half of the Square belonged to his heirs. Judge Spencer supported the City's claim. A suit was brought in the United States Court in Chicago by the Jonah Case heirs to recover the land, but the court sustained the possession and right of the City. Since that time no attempt has been made to disturb the City in the possession of the Square as a public park.

The Court House Square was dedicated for County purposes by the County Commissioners, who laid out the town of Stephenson in 1835. Afterwards, in 1841, it was named the town of Rock Island. The Square was named Stephenson Square after one Colonel Benjamin Stephenson. On this Square is located the Court House and jail, the first Court House was built in 1837, the first jail in 1836. The present jail was built in 1857, the present Court House in 1895. It is never spoken of as Stephenson Square, always Court House Square.

Garnsey Square is located at the west end of the City, it is located in what is known as the Chicago or lower Addition, and was first called Franklin Square. It is named after Daniel G. Garnsey, who was one of the proprietors of the Addition. The Square was underlaid by a gravel deposit, a few trees were grown upon it, but the nature of the soil was not favorable to trees and vegetation.

About the year 1881 the City Council induced by the popularity of the improve-

ment of Spencer Square, resolved to improve Garnsey Square. With that end in view they hauled away the gravel underlying the Square and filled it up with clay; after that was done the Square was graded, trees were planted, also improved by walks and cross walks, a fountain, the gift of Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann, was placed in the center, and improved and ornamented in other respects by gifts from citizens. The Square is now a beautiful public resort.

Long View Park contains about thirty-nine acres. It is bounded by Eighteenth and Twelfth Avenues, Seventeenth and Fifteenth Streets. The land was donated to the City for park purposes by Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Morris Rosenfield, Charles H. Deere and Captain T. J. Robinson.

The deed conveying the land, made by Rudolf Weyerhaeuser, who was trustee for the donors, is dated August 30, 1897, and contains a provision forbidding the sale, barter, gift or use of intoxicating liquors on the land.

About 1902 Mr. Chris Gaetjer was appointed superintendent of the park without salary, but on account of the meager annual appropriations made by the City Council little was done by way of improvement except the cleaning up of the land and the trimming of the trees.

In 1905 the Honorable George W. McCaskin, then mayor of the City, for the purpose of securing the permanent improvement of Long View Park, appointed a Board of Park commissioners, consisting of William Jackson, Fred C. Denkmann, William H. Dart, Otto Huber and Ed B. McKown. These gentlemen afterwards formulated a plan which was concurred in by the City Council, by which the City agreed to appropriate for two years the annual sum of \$6,250, provided the citizens would subscribe a like sum.

The work of obtaining subscriptions from the citizens was begun by the members of the board in which they were assisted by Superintendent



Gaetjer. The effort was successful. By the month of May, 1906, the citizens' subscription amounted to over \$13,000; thereupon the work of permanent improvement was begun. The plan of improvement consisted of laying out macadamizing and draining a road and branch road through the park; excavating for two lakes on which beautiful swans and water fowl could disport, and be viewed with pleasure by visitors; the improvements also including a model public building. Cement walks, a waterfall, a brooklet connecting the lakes, a splendid pavilion overlooking the Cities of Rock Island and Davenport, a rustic bridge and series of dams on the line of the lakes and connecting brooklet. A beautiful memorial fountain, the gift of Misses Naomi and Catherine Davenport, of Davenport, Iowa, in memory of their uncle, the Honorable Bailey Davenport, deceased, several times mayor of Rock Island. Many other valuable improvements were made, all of which are highly appreciated by the citizens of Rock Island, as evidenced by the numbers that visit the park daily. On the west side of the park is a children's play ground, with swings, slides and other fixtures for their amusement, the gift of Mrs. Anna Davis. From the varied character of the land composing Long View Park, with its beautiful plateaus, mounds, slopes, with the improvements made it is no exaggeration to say that when completed it will favorably compare with any park on the Mississippi River; the ease by which it can be reached by the people will make it always a center where the people can enjoy its restful and beautiful surroundings.

#### ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The citizens of Rock Island at an early day evinced a great interest in education. Prior to 1857, the schools of Rock Island existed under the sub-district form of organization. At this time, however, the attendance became so large and the schools were growing so

rapidly that a different organization became necessary in order that the pupils of the district might enjoy better facilities for securing a common school education. Through a united effort a law was enacted to incorporate the "Rock Island School District," and a charter obtained February 18, 1857, for the establishment of the present school system. This charter which was thus created for the government of the Rock Island schools, has been in force for over fifty years, and under its wise provisions the schools have been efficient in providing excellent facilities for obtaining a good, common and high school education.

The first board of education consisted of W. L. Sweeney, George Mixter, Jacob Sailor, Elton C. Cropper, and David Hawes. Of this board Messrs. Cropper, Sailor and Hawes served two years, George Mixter and W. L. Sweeney six years. Of the forty-eight persons who have served on the board since 1857, J. M. Buford served twelve years; S. W. McMaster, eleven years; M. D. Merrill, thirteen years; F. M. Sinnett, ten years; and Mylo Lee, nine years.

Among those who have rendered excellent service in building up, from a small beginning, the excellent system, were William Bailey, Charles Buford, George Mixter, E. C. Cropper, John Barge, A. F. Cutter, M. D. Merrill, Edward Burrall, and W. S. Knowlton, who have passed to their eternal home. They are, however, kindly remembered by thousands who have enjoyed the educational advantages they were so largely instrumental in providing.

The first superintendent placed in charge of the schools, as organized under the charter, was B. M. Reynolds, who served from 1857 to 1862. During the past forty years, the schools have had ten superintendents, whose names and terms of service are as follows:

B. M. Reynolds, 1857-1862; A. M. Gow, 1862-1868; James M. Gow, 1868-1869; W. A. Bemis, 1869-1871; J. F. Gowdy, 1871-1872;

J. F. Everett, 1872-1881; S. S. Kemble, 1881-1895; James A. Ament, 1895-1896; R. G. Young, 1896-1900; H. B. Hayden, 1900, and at present, 1908, our good superintendent and director.

It will be observed that S. S. Kemble, who is largely responsible for the system of schools which has been built up in the city, has had the longest term of service, having held the position of superintendent for fourteen consecutive years. Superintendent Kemble did a grand work in our city during the long term he had charge of the schools; and, though he is today far away in his western home, he holds a warm place in the affections of our citizens, both young and old.

The schools of the city are as follows:

High School, Twenty-first Street and Sixth Avenue. H. E. Brown, principal; Cora L. Eastman, assistant principal.

Hawthorne School, Eighth Street and Third Avenue. L. C. Daugherty, principal; Mary E. Entrikin, assistant principal.

Washington School, Thirteenth Street and Third Avenue. Emily Freeman, principal.

Kemble School, Nineteenth Street and Fifth Avenue. Adda Ellen Muse, principal.

Lincoln School, Twenty-second Street and Seventh Avenue. Mary Platt principal.

School for Deaf Children, in Lincoln School building.

Eugene Field School, Twenty-ninth Street and Seventh Avenue. Sarah Johnston principal.

Irving School, Twelfth Street and Ninth Avenue. Leonora Witherspoon principal.

Longfellow School, Forty-second Street and Seventh Avenue. Ida W. Lundy, principal.

Horace Mann School, Thirty-seventh Street and Fourteenth Avenue. Mary L. Carter, principal.

Grant School, Seventh Street and Eleventh Avenue. Dora E. Newton, principal.

Board of Education of 1907 and 1908: C. H. Seidel, W. B. McIntyre, Hamlin H. Hull, F. C. Denkmann, Doctor J. W. Stewart.

Our district should congratulate itself upon the exceptional facilities that have been provided for the education of its young people. Few cities have their school buildings more wisely distributed, more substantial in structure, and graceful in architecture, or more completely and comfortably furnished.

In the year 1856 there was set on foot a plan to erect a High School building. A lot was purchased for \$6,000 and a building erected for \$30,000. When nearly finished, on the night of July 4, 1858, it was fired, and the interior entirely destroyed. It was rebuilt and occupied in 1859. The second High School was burned February 15, 1901; after which the classes were conducted in the Broadway Presbyterian Church Sunday School rooms. The present High School was erected in 1901, at a cost of \$125,000. Mr. Frederick F. Borgolte was the architect, and John Volk and Company the contractors.

The original contract was \$85,985; extras and additions making the total \$125,000.

The contract was let June 4, 1901, and the building opened for occupancy September 6 of the same year. While the chief object of the High School is the preparation of pupils for life, rather than for college; several University preparatory courses are offered. Graduates of this school who have completed any of these courses are entitled to a University certificate which will admit them to any of the leading colleges and universities.

## COLLEGES.

### AUGUSTANA COLLEGE.

Augustana College and Theological Seminary was founded in 1860, making it one of the older educational institutions of the State.

At a meeting held in Chicago, April 27, 1860, the founders of the Augustana Synod (feeling the urgent need of teachers, preachers and citizens prepared to take the lead in religious and intellectual work) decided to erect an institution where young men could be prepared for the great work of life. This

date has been generally observed ever since as "Founders Day" by the churches of the synod; the income from all these celebrations to be given to a permanent fund for an Augustana professorship.

During the first three years of its existence (1860-1863) Augustana was located at Chicago Professor L. P. Esbjorn being president. Through inducements from Paxton, Ford County, Illinois, in 1863, Augustana was moved there, where it remained for twelve years, under the successful guidance of President Doctor T. N. Hasselquist and Professor Henry Rock of Pennsylvania. The location at Paxton not being considered central enough a removal was very strongly urged, some wishing Chicago, and others the Mississippi Valley. Rock Island was finally chosen and ground broken for the new college. A few friends assembled on the forest-covered bluff at Rock Island, and as they prayed that the institution in its new home should become a temple of the Lord and shed its benign influence far and wide, they thought of the temple of the Israelites, and how men in their prayers turned toward it as a source of blessing to a whole nation. Filled with this feeling, they named the hill "Zion," which name it bears to this day. In 1875 the college was opened, although not thoroughly completed, Doctor Hasselquist being president and Professor Rock vice-president.

From these beginnings the institution has grown to be a first class American College, offering courses and doing work equal to the very best, with students numbering seven hundred and a faculty composed of men from the leading American and European universities. All departments are extremely strong and progressive. The academic department offers a four-years' course, giving preparation for entrance to Yale and other universities. For graduates who desire to become clergymen the institution has an excellent theological seminary. The college department of four years offers courses in

classical and scientific work leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, recognized by American universities, such as Yale and Harvard, and European universities. The normal department prepares students for work as teachers. In the conservatory of music thorough instruction is given in singing, violin, pipe organ, piano, harmony, counterpoint, musical dictation, elocution, physical culture, orchestra instruments, and other subjects. The art department, under the direction of Professor Graftstrom, a fellow student of the great artist, Zorn, has shown some excellent work. In the business department are taught book-keeping, stenography, type writing, and other necessary commercial branches. It is an institution that Rock Island should more than be proud of and appreciate. For thirty-three years, in which it has made its home with us, under the guidance of Doctor Gustav Andreen, the scholarly gentleman who is now Augustana's president, the college is experiencing an unparalleled period of prosperity and growth.

#### THE VILLA DE CHANTAL.

This institution (Home school for girls) was formerly known as Francis de Sales Academy, and was founded in 1864 at Maysville, Kentucky. In August, 1899, the academy was removed to Rock Island. The Villa de Chantal is located on one of the most beautiful bluffs overlooking the Mississippi, and commanding a superb view of the surrounding country. The institution was first incorporated in 1866, under the title of "The Sisters of the Visitation," Maysville, Kentucky, and after its removal to Rock Island it was re-incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, with the new title, "The Sisters of the Visitation," Rock Island, Illinois. By its charter the academy possesses all the rights and privileges of a collegiate institution. The course of study embraces the academic, intermediate and primary departments.

The academic department offers two courses, the general and the college preparatory; art, drawing, painting and crayon work are provided for in the course. The piano, organ, harp, mandolin and violin are taught by competent instructors.

The department of elocution is under the supervision of a finished pupil of the Chicago School of Oratory. Foreign languages may be studied under the supervision of accomplished linguists. Aesthetic culture, and daily physical exercises receive special care. The library of the Villa de Chantal is one of the most complete school libraries in the State. The City of Rock Island is to be congratulated on possessing this excellent educational institution.

#### THE ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The public library building of the City of Rock Island, is very beautiful in design and architecture, and is the most imposing edifice belonging to the city, and of it all its citizens are justly proud. In fact it is readily conceded to be the most beautiful and commodious public building in the county, and with its valuable and well selected library, both for reference and general literature, its influence for good in the community is very great and cannot be over-estimated. Its architecture is of "Ionic" design. Its interior decoration is in "Italian renaissance" and most beautiful in design and execution. The building complete with all furnishings together with lot cost approximately \$94,000.

The present library is the result of arduous and incessant toil and attention; and it is to be deplored that no record of the exertions and sacrifices of the intellectual men and women who were primarily responsible for its being, has been preserved. All the facts are therefore not obtainable, but this much is known:

Early in June, 1855, a few public spirited citizens of the city begun the serious consideration of this question, and it began to take

definite form June 26, 1855. The *Rock Islander* of July 4, 1855, announced that "one of the oldest and most eminent citizens will gladly give one hundred dollars toward a library; provided nine others would give a like amount." On September 15, 1855, a public meeting of citizens was held in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, and was organized by the selection of Honorable M. B. Osborn as chairman and H. C. Connelly and O. P. Wharton as secretaries. The desirability of a library organization was discussed by Messrs. Bailey, Hayes, Pershing, Knox and Marshall, and resulted in the appointment of Messrs. Knox, Velie, Steel, T. J. Buford, Pershing, Fish, Bailey, Conway, Harper and Kelly a committee to solicit subscriptions upon the conditions that those giving one hundred dollars, their children between the age of fourteen and twenty-one, should be life members; persons giving fifty dollars should be life members; those giving twenty-five dollars should be members for ten years, those giving ten dollars should be members for four years, and those giving three dollars should be members for one year. Five hundred dollars was subscribed at that meeting, and Messrs. Knox, Pershing and Wilkinson were appointed a committee to draft a constitution.

On October 3, 1855, the organization was completed by the adoption of the name of the "Rock Island City Library and Reading Room Association" and the election of the Honorable Joseph Knox president, H. C. Connelly vice-president, Honorable W. M. Bailey treasurer and R. M. Marshall secretary. At this meeting Mr. C. B. Waite of Chicago donated lot three, block fifty-three, Chicago or Lower Addition, valued at two hundred dollars, to the Association, and the hall committee was instructed to fit up "Library Hall" on the third floor of Bailey and Boyle's block. On October 24, 1855, an advertisement was inserted in the *Rock Islander* for a librarian, and Mr. Richard P.



Cropper was chosen librarian. The reading room was opened about November 7, 1855, from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. On December 3, 1855, announcement was made that a large invoice of books had been received from New York and that the fully equipped library would be opened to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday following, from 10 to 12 A. M., 1 to 5:30 and 6:30 to 10 P. M. In 1857 the number of volumes had increased to 1,000. For many years this association was prosperous, and proved a great benefit to the city. After some years the interest seemed to wane, and Mr. Charles Pettifer became librarian. During his incumbency the library substantially ceased to be popular and it was closed.

Afterward some of the young men of the city organized an association known as the "Young Men's Library Association," and the library of the original association passed to its control. It continued to be a live and valuable association until the organization of the present City Library, having increased the number of volumes to 2,000, and was supported by the annual dues of its members.

It was not until August, 1872, that full public cognizance was taken of the manifold and far-reaching value of such an organization. In this last mentioned year the General Assembly of this State passed the present library law, and it was approved and came in force March 7, 1872. A few of the leading citizens of the City readily realized that a public library would be of inestimable value to the City, and they promptly proceeded to avail themselves of the law, and their efforts to that end were readily supported by the mayor and City Council of the City. On August 12, 1872, the City Council passed an ordinance organizing a public library as a part of the City government, and at the same meeting Messrs. Henry Curtis and E. D. Sweeney appeared before the council, and on behalf of the "Young Men's Library Association," donated the entire library of that

association, consisting of about 2,000 volumes, to the City. Thus the present public library was established, and it is believed to have been the second library established under the law of 1872.

On October 12, 1872, Mayor Bailey Davenport recommended to the City Council that Messrs. Edward Burrall, Cornelius Lynde, junior, E. D. Sweeney, W. H. Gest, L. M. Haverstick, Milton Jones, Conrad Spiedel, R. Lloyd and P. T. McElhern should constitute the first board of directors, and they were unanimously approved as such directors. The board organized by the election of Edward Burrall as president and E. D. Sweeney as secretary.

The discussion of the proposition to erect a new library building in the City begun as early as 1895, and serious consideration was given it by the board of directors, collectively and individually, from time to time; but definite action to that end was delayed for the reason that the majority of the board thought it inadvisable to increase the taxation upon the citizens to the extent necessary for such purpose. During these years the different members of the board gave the question much thought, and various wealthy citizens of the City were approached upon the subject, with the view to elicit their co-operation and financial aid toward the erection of a suitable building as early as 1897. Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser early showed an interest in the project, and proposed to join with others he mentioned in providing a fund with which to build; but as no one else would co-operate the project failed. Mr. Andrew Carnegie's attention was called to the needs of the City by one or more citizens other than members of the board of directors, but without being able to interest him in the matter.

The accommodations for the library became so poor and inadequate and the growing needs of the library so great, that finally the board of directors, which consisted of Charles L. Walker, president; John W. Welch, secretary;

and Walter Johnson, Louis Kohn, Charles J. Larkin, C. W. Foss, Charles Fiebig, Alexander de Soland, and Joseph Kerr, were compelled to take action looking toward the erection of a new library building by general taxation, and in view of the steady advance in real estate it seemed imperative that a suitable site be secured without delay, and the board finally, on October 10, 1899, appointed a committee to consider the matter and report. On March 6, 1900, the committee reported that they had obtained an option on the present premises for \$8,500, and the committee was continued to further consider the question. On April 7, 1900, they reported that Messrs. Drack and Kerns had been employed to prepare preliminary plans for a suitable library building, and such plans were submitted, with the estimated cost of \$70,000. The board unanimously approved such report and plans, and passed the required resolution for the erection of the building, out of general taxes, to be collected in seven yearly installments. On April 9, 1900, the City Council authorized and directed the board of directors to proceed to have such building erected.

For this action, and the liberal and progressive spirit manifested, the people are indebted to the following city officers: Honorable William McConochie, Mayor; H. C. Schaffer, city clerk; and Aldermen George W. Aster, Fred Gall, John Lawhead, Thomas A. Pender, H. L. Wheelan, Andrew Soderstrom, Michael Concannon, Charles Willis, Albert Johnson, Robert Beck, Charles Heide-mann, Basilus Winter, J. O. Freed and Henry Elwell.

On June 12, 1900, the board requested that the first installment of \$10,000 be levied, and the City Council on June 26, 1900, duly ordered such levy. August 20, 1900, the board of directors obtained a deed for the lots on which the building now stands.

On November 13, 1900, Mr. Walker reported to the board of directors that Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, in order to permit

the immediate erection of a library building, had very generously offered to give the board outright \$10,000 and to loan them \$50,000 at five per cent, provided a fire proof and ornamental building be erected. This offer was gladly accepted and plans for such a building were ordered. Mr. Leonard Drack, architect, submitted plans of the present building, but when the bids for its erection were opened, it was found that it could not be erected within the amount at the disposal of the board, except by eliminating the beautiful columns and pilasters. This dilemma was submitted to Mr. Weyerhaeuser, and he insisted that the beauty of the building should not be sacrificed; and in order to prevent it, generously gave \$2,500 in addition, and persuaded Mr. F. C. A. Denkmann to give a like amount. Subsequently, in order to enable the board to liquidate the extra cost of the building occasioned by the difficulty of getting a safe foundation and some other necessary changes, Mr. Weyerhaeuser gave the further sum of \$5,369.32, and finally his generosity induced him to purchase thirty feet additional ground adjoining the library lot on the east, so as to make the lot one hundred and fifty feet square, thus making his total gift to the library \$20,769.32.

The contract for the building was entered into September 10, 1901, with Collins Brothers as general contractors, for \$58,147, who immediately begun work. The corner stone was laid in the Fall of 1902, and the building was opened to the public for general use December 15, 1903. The first floor consists mainly of one large room, divided only by the delivery desk with its attachments and metal stacks, into stack room, reading room, reference room and children's room. To the right of the stack room are the librarian's office and the work room. The stack room will accommodate 60,000 volumes. Up stairs are the directors' room, art room and audience room, the latter to be used in the future for a general reading room. In the basement are

rooms for Government documents, newspaper files, heating plant, lavatories, etc. All are finished in quarter-sawed oak, in antique finish. The rooms are thus conveniently arranged for entire supervision from the delivery desk, and the rooms are spacious and airy. It is, withal, a public institution for which the people of the city and county are justly proud, and for this they are largely indebted to the generosity and public spirit of Mr. Weyerhaeuser. It contains, in round numbers, 18,000 volumes, besides pamphlets, which are freely loaned to all citizens. The art and assembly rooms are large and well adapted to such uses, and the directors' room is beautifully decorated and furnished.

The building committee consisted of Mr. C. L. Walker, elected member of the board in July, 1891, and who has been its president since July 25, 1893; Mr. J. W. Welch, appointed a member of the board in 1890, and has been its secretary since July 25, 1891; C. J. Larkin, appointed in 1886, and Louis Kohn, appointed in 1894. The present members of the board are Charles L. Walker, John W. Welch, Claude W. Foss, Charles J. Larkin, Louis Kohn, Charles Fiebig, Alexander de Soland, C. P. Comegys and Doctor Joseph DeSilva. Miss Ellen Gale is the librarian, and Miss Fanny F. Cleland first assistant librarian, and Miss Elsie Schocker second assistant. The library and reading rooms are open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. on week days.

#### HOSPITALS AND HOMES.

For a city the size of Rock Island, it is adequately supplied with institutions for caring for the sick, injured and indigent.

Bethany Home, for neglected children, orphans and deserving poor, located in the upper end of Rock Island, on Fifth Avenue, was formerly known as the Union Mission, and was located at Eighth Street and Fourth Avenue. Later it was transferred to South Rock Island, where it was maintained until

January 3, 1906. The new quarters are of brick, and are capable of accommodating fifty children. There are now forty inmates. The cost of the present home, inclusive of \$1,000 transferred in real estate, was \$10,600. It was incorporated July 12, 1899, and its donors and supporters ran into the hundreds. It is non-sectarian.

#### ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL.

This magnificent and much needed structure was originally established in 1894, under the care of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. In 1904 the present building, including the new section and alterations, was completed at a total cost of \$60,000. The hospital is now self-supporting, twelve nurses are employed, twelve sisters are retained to perform the necessary work aside from nursing, and it has a capacity of one hundred patients. The building is an imposing four-story brick structure, and is surrounded by a beautiful and spacious lawn. Miss Mary N. Robertson, widely known for ability as a trained nurse, is superintendent.

#### CEMETERIES.

Chippianock Cemetery Association of Rock Island was organized in 1855. The cemetery grounds occupy a beautiful natural spot of sixty acres, one mile south of the City of Rock Island. Outside of the natural advantages, the grounds are beautifully laid out in winding drives and walks, according to plans made by Mr. Hotchkiss, who laid out the celebrated Greenwood Cemetery of Brooklyn, New York. The grounds are mainly sloping, with the hill top flat, backed by a wooded ravine, and are nicely timbered with fine old trees. It is an ideal spot for a cemetery, and surpassed by very few in natural beauty. The name Chippianock is of Indian origin, and means "City of the Dead." Here rest over 7,000, including those removed from the old cemetery at the head of Eagle Street.

The Hebrew Burying Ground Association of Rock Island was organized in 1869, and owns one acre in Chippiannock Cemetery, very beautifully laid out and enclosed with a fine hedge.

Calvary Cemetery Association, adjoining Chippiannock Cemetery on the southeast corner, contains about five acres, and was established nearly fifty years ago. Three years ago it was incorporated under the name of "Calvary Cemetery Association," and is controlled by a board of directors. In this cemetery rest about one thousand.

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, located south of Chippiannock and Calvary, was instituted about ten years ago, and is governed by a board of directors.

Carr's Cemetery is located in South Rock Island, north side of the river road.

Dickson Cemetery, is located in Sears.

Lutheran Cemetery, located on the Twenty-fourth Street hill, one-half mile south of city limits.

#### BANKS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

Before entering into details of the banks of Rock Island County it would be well to recall earlier conditions and incidents.

Within the last fifty-six years there have been numerous panics, but none so disastrous locally as that of 1857 and 1858. Four banks in Rock Island were reduced to one (Mitchell and Cable) as the immediate result, and that bank and the bank of Gould, Dimock and Company, Moline, were the only banks in the county for several years. The bulk of the currency in this section in those days was issued by the Bank of Florence, organized by Cook, Sargent and Parker, but it was located at Florence, Nebraska, which is still an insignificant suburb of Omaha. It must be remembered that there was no railroad across the State of Iowa in 1857, hence the place of ultimate redemption of Florence money was practically inaccessible. As long as the power-

ful banking house of Cook and Sargent at Davenport voluntarily redeemed the notes, they stood high but when that firm went down in the panic great distress followed in this section.

As far as I know there was never but one daylight bank hold-up in the county. March 24, 1856 there was a robbery of \$5,000 from the bank of Cook, Sargent and Parker in Rock Island. Mr. Parker, the cashier, was out of the city, and at the noon hour A. F. Heath, bookkeeper, had gone to the Rock Island House for dinner, leaving the teller, John Thorington, alone in the office. Thorington said he was assaulted by three men, having been knocked down with a slung shot, and that the robbery and escape followed.

He dragged himself into the adjoining hardware store of Harper and Steel in a very much battered state. Alarm was immediately given and officers and citizens, horseback and afoot, swarmed over the city and surrounding country, but without avail. The matter is still a mystery.

July 20, 1904, burglars made a desperate attempt to enter the safe of the State Bank of East Moline. With a liberal use of nitroglycerine they blew off the outer safe door, but left at about two o'clock in the morning without having made any impression on the burglar proof money box.

While they did not get a cent of money they made a sad wreck of office and furniture. No clew was ever obtained of the burglars. Charles Fiebig, lock expert of this city, opened the money chest next morning and contents were intact and uninjured.

John L. Drew, of Davenport, was a clerk in the bank of Cook, Sargent and Parker of Rock Island in 1854, continuing with the bank of Mitchell and Cable for a few months during the year of 1856. He, therefore, served as a banker at an earlier date than any living man in this section. Honorable J. M. Gould, late of Moline, served for a great many

successive years as a banker, and is the pioneer living bank president. Phil Mitchell commenced his bank service in 1863; it has been practically continuous, and he is probably entitled to credit for longest service.

In order to show the growth of the banking business it may be said that in 1873, which was a panic year, deposits in all the banks in the county did not exceed \$600,000. Now they are \$11,800,000.

The first bank in this section was that of Cook and Sargent, established in 1847 at Davenport. It continued in business, as the leading bank on the upper Mississippi until its failure in the panic of 1858. Its owners, Ebenezer Cook, John P. Cook and George B. Sargent, were able financiers, and at the time of the failure they probably owned more good Iowa land than any later firm or individual, but it could not be sold at any price in those distressing times.

The first bank in Rock Island County was that of Cook, Sargent and Parker, which in 1852 occupied the room now occupied by T. H. Thomas, Second Avenue and Seventeenth Street. In 1854 this bank was moved to the quarters now occupied by the State Bank of Rock Island, its successor, showing a continuous existence of more than fifty-six years. It is the oldest bank in the State of Illinois, save one. In 1856 the late P. L. Mitchell, and the late P. L. Cable came to Rock Island from Kentucky and bought out the Cook, Sargent and Parker bank, continuing the business under the firm name of Mitchell and Cable until 1860, when the late Cornelius Lynde, junior, bought out Mr. Cable's interest, and the firm became Mitchell and Lynde, which firm was in turn succeeded by the present State Bank of Rock Island in 1905.

In the latter part of 1852 or early 1853 the late Isaac Negus, and the late William L. Lee and the late M. B. Osborn organized the Rock

Island Bank, a state institution, and authorized under the then existing state banking law to issue bank notes, which it did liberally. John H. Kinney, now of Chicago was cashier for several years. This was the first bank of issue in the county, and it is fair to state it met every dollar of its obligations, both to depositors and note holders, chiefly through the financial rectitude and moral stamina of the late Isaac Negus, who stood by it manfully, and was its last president when its bank building and business were sold to Mitchell and Lynde in 1861.

The Bank of the Federal Union of Rock Island was organized in 1856 by the late General N. B. Buford, H. C. Blackburn and Bushrod Birch, all brothers-in-law. This was also a bank of issue as well as deposit and succumbed to the panic of 1857 and 1858.

In 1856 there was the private banking house of Fish, Goodale and Lee at Rock Island. This bank also went out of business in the panic of 1857 and 1858, but our late fellow citizen, Mylo Lee, was the medium through which every dollar of its obligations were paid.

Mitchell and Lynde continued to be the only bank in Rock Island from 1861 to 1863, when P. L. Mitchell and Cornelius Lynde, junior, organized the First National Bank of Rock Island, capital \$100,000, with P. L. Mitchell as president and J. M. Buford as cashier. It was among the earliest of the national banks to be in operation in the United States, its charter number being one hundred and eight. It continued in business until 1890, when its business was merged with that of Mitchell and Lynde.

The next bank to be started in Rock Island was the Rock Island National Bank, in 1871, whose first president was the late Captain T. J. Robinson, and first cashier Mr. A. Benedict, now of San Jose, California. Mr. Benedict served but a short time and he was succeeded by the late J. F. Robinson, the



present officers being H. E. Casteel, president; M. S. Heagy, vice-president; and H. B. Simmon, cashier. Capital, \$100,000.

The Peoples National Bank of Rock Island—capital, \$100,000—was organized in 1874, with Bailey Davenport as president, Joseph Rosenfield, vice-president and John Peetz as cashier. Its present officers are Otto Huber, president, and Carl Hellpenstell, vice-president and cashier.

The Rock Island Savings Bank was the first savings bank, and first state bank to be organized under the present Illinois banking laws in the county. Capital, \$100,000. The first officers were E. P. Reynolds, president, and J. M. Buford, cashier, which position he retained up to the time of his election to the presidency to succeed the late P. L. Mitchell. The present officers are Phil. Mitchell, president; H. P. Hull, vice-president, and P. Greenawalt, cashier.

The Central Trust and Savings Bank of Rock Island—capital, \$100,000—was organized in 1899, and its present officers are H. E. Casteel, president; M. S. Heagy, vice-president and H. B. Simmon, cashier.

In Moline, Chapman Brothers conducted a small banking and exchange business, with insurance agency, as early as 1856, but they failed in the ensuing panic, and it may be truthfully said the beginning of the banking business in Moline was in 1857, when Gould, Dimock and Company started their private bank.

This bank was succeeded in December, 1863, by the First National Bank of Moline, with J. S. Keator as president, and J. M. Gould as cashier. John Deere was president in 1866, succeeded by J. M. Gould as president and J. S. Gillmore cashier in 1867, H. S. Chapman becoming vice-president in 1905, succeeding J. T. Browning. It was merged with the Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company in 1905.

The Peoples Savings Bank of Moline—capital, \$100,000—organized in 1891, its first

officers being C. H. Deere, president; Morris Rosenfield, vice-president, and J. S. Gilmore, cashier, merged with the Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company in 1905.

The Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company of Moline was organized in 1905. Capital, \$150,000. This was a consolidation with the First National Bank, and Peoples Savings Bank of Moline. Its first officers were C. H. Deere, president; H. L. Chapman, vice-president; and J. S. Gillmore, cashier. The present officers are William Butterworth, president; N. H. Green, vice-president; and C. W. Lundahl, cashier.

The Manufacturers Bank of Moline was organized under a state charter in 1869. Its first officers were S. W. Wheelock, president; Porter Skinner, vice-president; C. W. Lobdell, cashier; and C. F. Hemenway, assistant cashier.

It was succeeded in 1872 by the Moline National Bank—capital, \$100,000—with the same officers as above, and this bank was in turn succeeded in 1906 by the State Savings Bank and Trust Company, of Moline—capital, \$200,000. The present officers are F. G. Allen, president; C. I. Josephson, vice-president; and Sol. Hirsch, cashier.

In 1863 W. H. Devore started a private bank at Port Byron. At first it was under the name of Brown and Devore, but Mr. Devore succeeded and continued until Simonson and Schafer became his successor, to be in turn succeeded by the present Port Byron State Bank—capital, \$50,000. The present officers are J. W. Simonson, president; F. S. Gates, vice-president; B. B. Huntley, cashier.

E. E. Rogers and Sons started in the private banking business in Port Byron in 1871, the partners being E. E. Rogers, Frank E. Rogers and E. M. Rogers, the bank being known as the Bank of Port Byron.

M. Schoonmaker started the Reynolds Bank, at Reynolds, in 1888, a private bank which was sold to R. P. Wait and Company

several years thereafter, who continue the business.

The Farmers State Bank of Reynolds was organized in 1904—capital, \$25,000—with M. Schoonmaker, president; Elisha Lee, vice-president; and J. E. Lee, cashier.

The State Bank of East Moline was organized in 1904—capital, \$25,000. Its first officers were Phil Mitchell, president; Daniel McNeal, vice-president; and B. J. Mitchell, cashier. The present officers are J. A. O'Neil, president; William Jackson, vice-president; and F. A. Sudlow, cashier.

R. P. Wait started the private Bank of Taylor Ridge in 1905.

H. R. Cox started the private Bank of Silvis in 1907, which is the last one to be started in the county.

#### ROCK ISLAND MANUFACTORIES.

Our manufacturing interests are strong and growing every day. Space forbids our mentioning everybody. The products of the factories are very diversified, and all, large and small, are on a good sound basis, with a very satisfactory business.

The Rock Island Plow Company was originally established in 1854 by Charles Buford and R. N. Tate; afterwards named B. D. Buford and Company, and later the Rock Island Plow Company. They manufacture high grade agricultural implements; mainly plows, cultivators, harrows, hay loaders and other farm implements. The company has recently been re-organized, increasing its capital stock from \$600,000 to \$2,600,000.

Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann Company, manufacturers of and dealers in lumber, lath, shingles, and anything connected with that line of business. They are also the largest general concern in the logging and timber interests in the United States.

Rock Island Stove Works, manufacture all kinds of cooking stoves, ranges and heating stoves.

Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Company. A general line of lumber, mouldings, etc.

Rock Island Sash and Door Works. Whole sale manufacturers of everything in sash, doors, blinds and mouldings.

#### THE STANDARD TABLE OIL CLOTH COMPANY.

In July, 1901, the organization of the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company was effected; seven manufacturers sold their plants to the Standard Company. These plants were largely located in the east. The product of the company is light weight oil cloth, by which is meant oil cloth manufactured on a cotton base used for covering tables, imitations of leather, bag muslin, shelf and stair oil cloth. The company has never manufactured oil cloth for floors, which is a separate industry, inasmuch as floor oil cloth is manufactured on a burlap instead of a cotton base, the machinery and method of manufacture being entirely different.

The growth of the business, particularly in the west necessitated the erection of a new plant, one of the largest of its kind in operation, at Rock Island, Illinois, with a frontage on the Mississippi River. This plant in time will likely be the largest plant of its kind in the world. It is centrally located, has good shipping facilities and caters to the wants of the richest country on the globe; the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys.

The output of the Standard Company has steadily increased. For its last fiscal year it manufactured about 36,000 miles of light weight oil cloth, one yard wide. Its trade mark "*Meritas*," which is stamped on the back of every yard of its product in oil cloth is well known in all commercial centers. A large export business is done.

One of the products of the company which has been recently introduced to the public is a washable wall covering called "*Sanitas*." This new product is meeting with great success.

In May, 1907, the assets of the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company were sold to the Standard Oil Cloth Company under a merger agreement, the directors and officers retaining their positions.

The Standard Oil Cloth Company has a capital stock of \$6,000,000; \$3,000,000 of preferred and \$3,000,000 of common. Its officers are as follows: President and treasurer, Henry M. Garlick, Youngstown, Ohio; vice-president, George H. Hughes, New York City; secretary and general manager, Alvin Hunsicker, New York City; assistant treasurer, W. E. Thatcher, Orange, New Jersey.

The company is the largest of its kind in the world, and employs a large number of men in its various plants.

Among the many other enterprising industries are found:

National Neck Yoke Company.

Fremont Butter Tub Company.

Electric Construction and Machinery Company.

Colona Sand Stone Quarries.

Rock Island Skirt Company.

Kramer Printing and Publishing Company, successors to Kramer and Company, the old reliable printing and book binding establishment.

## BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.

### THE ROCK ISLAND MUTUAL BUILDING, LOAN AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

In the year 1880 on the invitation of the late Samuel S. Guyer, the pioneer savings institution of Rock Island was organized. This institution was one of the first Building Associations organized in Illinois and has been the model for many similar associations in this and adjoining States.

During the first year the total receipts were only \$4,263.70. But so rapidly were the investing public educated in the advantages of the Building Association, that in the year

1894 the annual receipts had increased to \$237,619.05.

How much benefit has accrued from this association to the City of Rock Island in promoting habits of thrift and economy, in furnishing the means whereby rent payers could become home owners; in putting life into real estate investments generally and in stimulating all the building trades, can hardly be overestimated.

Through the medium of this association over two thousand citizens have been enabled to provide their families with homes on the payment of monthly installments, no more burdensome than the monthly payment of rent. Savings depositors have been accorded the full earnings of their moneys and these earnings have averaged considerably above the rates that money could be loaned for. There are no favored stockholders to absorb the major part of the earnings. The association is purely mutual. All the earnings are divided equitably pro rata according to the amount and the time of investment.

The association's motto is: "The American Home is the Safeguard of American Liberties."

### THE BLACK HAWK HOMESTEAD BUILDING, LOAN AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Black Hawk Homestead Building, Loan and Savings Association, of Rock Island, Illinois, was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois on July 25, 1887, with an authorized capital stock of \$1,000,000, consisting of ten thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, to be issued in series at the discretion of the board of directors. So great was the demand for the stock, the association, at the end of two years, was compelled to increase its authorized capital stock to \$10,000,000.

This association has by resolution of its board of directors issued series every three months. The stock is issued in three classes; namely: "A," "B" and "C," and payable

as follows: Class "A," fifty cents per share per month; class "B," one dollar per share per month; and class "C," two dollars per share per month, maturing to par value of one hundred dollars per share in one hundred and thirty-seven months, seventy-nine months and forty-five months, respectively.

This money is loaned by the association to its stockholders at the rate of six per cent per annum, and a monthly premium of twenty cents per share per month. Thus, a stockholder having a lot of sufficient value to warrant a loan for building a house is enabled to acquire a home by the payment of easy monthly installments similar to house rent.

Through this system, the association has prospered wonderfully, and in the twenty and a half years of its existence has loaned to its stockholders over \$1,700,000, providing money for the building of houses to the number of eighteen hundred in the Cities of Rock Island and Moline. Estimating the population on the basis of five to a family, the association has provided homes for nine thousand people, which in itself would make a city of no mean proportion.

This association is to be regarded also from the standpoint of a savings bank, and in this feature cannot be excelled. It affords an opportunity to those who are desirous of saving money in small amounts of one dollar and upwards, and pays a liberal interest upon their investment. It has, during the time of its existence paid out to retiring and maturing stockholders, \$2,250,000.

The officers of the association at present are: E. D. Sweeney, president; H. H. Cleaveland, vice-president; F. K. Rhoads, treasurer; T. J. Medill, secretary; and Sweeney and Walker, attorneys.

The office of the association is suite No. 210, Peoples National Bank building, Rock Island, Illinois.

## INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

### BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

Following a wide spread movement among cities and towns to develop their commercial and manufacturing importance and recognizing that this could best be attained through an organization whose efforts would be confined to this field of activity the Industrial Commission of Rock Island was created.

The first step necessary thereto was accomplished through the contribution of a fund of \$10,000 intended to meet the expenses incidental to the work for a given period, and upon the attainment thereof an organization was effected by the creation of five committees, namely: The manufacturers, the railroads, the jobbers, the conventions and the board of control, of which F. C. Denkmann was elected first president, Charles McHugh, vice president; T. J. Medill, treasurer; and Mayer Levi, secretary.

Soon after the completion of the organization it became evident that something more was necessary if Rock Island would compete with other points in an effort to secure the location of new industries, and in recognition thereof impetus was given to a movement to raise a fund of \$100,000 to be employed in providing sites and buildings and in such other ways as would meet the approval of the board of trustees. The mere suggestion was sufficient to awaken an interest in the plan outlined and within less than thirty days there was subscribed a total of nearly \$150,000, known as the Greater Rock Island Development Fund.

Nothing speaks more loudly of the loyalty, unselfishness and progressive spirit of the people of Rock Island than the success that marked this undertaking.

This fund has since then been complemented by a donation from Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann, Charles H. Deere, and the

J. F. Robinson and Morris Rosenfield estates, of fifty acres of land exceptionally well adapted to manufacturing purposes and admirably situated with respect to shipping facilities, both by rail and water.

Coupled with these concrete conditions there has been a spirit awakened to the consciousness of the possibilities that lie before Rock Island and a determination to grasp them in furtherance of the ambition to become what nature ordained and which is already evident in our wonderful growth as a successful manufacturing center.

#### ROCK ISLAND CLUB.

The idea of forming an association such as the Rock Island Club was first broached by a party of Rock Island gentlemen, who met on the evening of November 18, 1896, at the Harper House. F. W. Bahnsen was chosen temporary chairman, and E. J. Burns temporary secretary. A committee of seven was named to perfect an organization, and at a meeting two days afterward, the latter appointed a sub-committee of three to draw up a constitution and by-laws, and to take out articles of incorporation. A charter was secured during December of the same year, and at a meeting held that month the first board of directors was elected, consisting of A. C. Dart, Charles McHugh, F. W. Bahnsen, W. H. Marshall, E. H. Guyer, Mayer Rosenfield, William Jackson, Phil Mitchell, E. W. Hurst, Henry Carse and C. J. Searle.

For nearly two years the club remained practically dormant, negotiations being in progress at that time for suitable quarters. Finally terms were arranged with Mrs. Dr. C. B. Kinyon for the use of the present quarters on Sixteenth Street and Third Avenue, and October 14, 1898, another meeting was held at the Harper House, at which a three-year lease of the premises was ratified. Before this time had expired, in July, 1901, the clubhouse and grounds were purchased from Mrs. Kinyon, \$12,000 being

the consideration. Immediate plans for extensions were begun, and during the Fall \$5,000 was spent upon improvements, which have given the club quarters that are considered the finest in the State outside of Chicago.

The Club began with a membership of 100. Being a pronounced success from the start, there was no difficulty in securing additions to the enrollment, and at the present time there are 287 members in good standing.

F. W. Bahnsen was the first president, and John T. Stafford was the first secretary. Mayer Rosenfield was elected treasurer when the organization was effected, and held the position up to the time he ceased to be a resident of the City. At the election in January, 1899, the board of directors was divided into three sections, one serving three years, another two years, and a third one year, as follows: Three years, W. H. Marshall, E. H. Guyer, C. A. Stoddard; two years, A. C. Dart, F. W. Bahnsen, Dr. G. L. Eyster, George A. Price; one year, Charles McHugh, Phil Mitchell, John T. Stafford, Mayer Levi. Since that time one section has been elected annually for a term of three years.

The defined objects of the club are, of course, largely social. The quarters are fitted up with parlors, a library, private dining rooms, a billiard room and bowling alleys. The rooms are elegantly furnished, and provided with everything for the entertainment of the members and guests. They are especially convenient at times when the City is called upon to do honor to a visitor of distinction.

There are fourteen standing committees provided for in the by-laws. Of these nine are appointed on club affairs and entertainment. The others are calculated to help in the upbuilding of the community. The subjects they cover are local improvements, Rock Island Arsenal, the tri-cities, manufacturers and railroads. Through these latter bodies many important matters have been brought to the attention of the club, and



subsequently acted upon, with great benefit to the city. A number of enterprises that were looking for a suitable field in which to locate have been induced, through the efforts of the Club to locate in Rock Island, and concessions have been secured from various corporations doing business here, upon which private appeals would have had no effect.

Another acquisition to the City, for which the Club deserves almost entire credit, is the Illinois Theatre, built on the advance sale seat plan, by George H. Johnson of St. Louis, at a cost of \$50,000, and completed in 1901. The matter was first taken hold of by the Club in 1900. Rock Island now has a playhouse second to none in the country, and it is all the more a source of satisfaction to the people at large because it was secured through local enterprise, manifested by a local organization.

Another important movement the Club fathered, and the one that will probably do more for the City than any other one thing that has ever been undertaken, was that for the installation of a small arms plant by the Government at Rock Island Arsenal. This was one of the very first matters taken hold of by the Club as the champion of the City's interests. How the support of Illinois and Iowa Congressmen and Senators was drawn to the project is too well known to need relating in detail. These successes point to the results which can be obtained by active and persistent co-operation, which the Rock Island Club has, upon numerous occasions, demonstrated it is capable of promoting.

The Rock Island Club is now in a flourishing condition. It is established upon a firm basis, for it fills a real need, and is conducted along correct lines.

#### ROCK ISLAND-DAVENPORT FERRY.

SEVENTY-ONE YEARS OF INTERCOMMUNICATION  
AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE LINK-  
ING THE TRI-CITIES.

The waters of historic old Mississippi, within smoke-signal of the Watch Tower of Black

Hawk, the Sachem, have been parted by the keels of Illini dug-out, Huron birch canoe, batteau of voyageur, flat boat of pioneer, winch-ferry of the early settler, horse-ferry of established villagers, steamer of modern date, and motor boat of oil and electricity of the opening era, and almost without exception, the introduction of these modes of passing over its waters have been due to transversely directed migration rather than lateral travel—the desire to cross the river rather than float with or stem it.

At this point the "Father of Waters" is a trifle over three-fourths of a mile wide, and while not deep enough to float an ocean liner, it is never shallow enough to ford; and even the earliest settler found himself naturally beset with the hankering to keep both sides the mighty stream under foot sovereignty. As a result, the boat. Probably at first a canoe or dug-out did duty for such as dared the red man's treachery—white taught; but the day was soon when the advent of the advance guard of the pioneer host made its appearance and household effects, and women and children called for better accommodation—and got it.

Just when Antoine LeClaire of Dubuque started ferrying his followers across is problematical, but May 28, 1837, it is sure that he deeded to John Wilson, of Rock Island County, Illinois, "the right to keep and operate a ferry across the Mississippi at a point known as 'The Ferry House,' recently erected and standing on the west bank of the Mississippi in the town of Davenport, extending one miles up and one miles down the river" together "with the boats and crafts now used on said ferry," and including the "privilege of passing over his land for purpose aforesaid," for the sums of \$5.00 in hand and \$1,000.

The phraseology is not of the clearest and the "one miles" up and down river is especially obscure, but the intent is clear so far as the ferry being already in existence as owned

property is concerned, as is also the fact that the said Antoine LeClaire owned much land in the locality. By another clause it is also made clear that the said Antoine LeClaire was fairly modern in his ideas and would have done credit to this day and age, namely: "Subject to the said LeClaire crossing in ferry free of charge."

That the ferry in those days was not a gift enterprise is shown by the schedule of prices affixed to this document, now yellow with age, held in the vaults of the Rock Island National Bank by the present secretary-treasurer, which schedule shows as follows:

FERRY RATES, 1837—Footmen, 25 cents; man and horse, 75 cents; loose cattle and horses, 25 cents per head; yoke oxen, 50 cents; loaded wagon and two horses, \$1.50; loaded wagon and yoke oxen, \$1.50; loaded wagon with horse or ox, 25 cents; two-wheel carriage with horse or ox, \$1.50; hogs and sheep, 12½ cents per head.

Just when John Wilson and wife came into the matter is uncertain, but in 1853 and 1854 John W. Spencer, James Grant and Thomas J. Robinson acquired the Wilson interests in this ferry, and January 28, 1857, the first actual charter for the ferry was issued to Spencer, Grant and Robinson. It gave wide latitude to the landing place, allowing for the growth of Rock Island and Davenport up or down the river, but stipulated the keeping of a Rock Island landing between Buffalo and Madison Streets, the keeping up a suitable equipment, etc.

April 7, 1888, the original license to operate this ferry was issued by the United States Treasury Department, and April 26, 1888, a charter was issued to the incorporated body—The Rock Island-Davenport Ferry Company, with a capital stock of \$60,000.

From that time practically no change of stockholders in the corporation nor in its management occurred until the death of Thomas J. Robinson, which occurred in April of 1899, when his stock was heiried by

his son, J. Frank Robinson, and with it went the management. Upon the death of J. Frank Robinson in May of 1902, it was learned that he bequeathed the Robinson stock to his cousin, Captain Marcus L. Henderson, who had been in charge of the ferry as general manager since 1896.

Captain Henderson is the president and manager, with H. E. Casteel secretary and treasurer.

In 1891 the "Augusta" was put in service. In 1902 she was rebuilt, re-christened the "T. J. Robinson," electric lighted and re-furnished. In 1904, entirely without public demand, the "Davenport" was built at Rock Island by Kahlke Brothers, and put in commission. She is also of modern design.

#### TRI-CITY PRESS CLUB.

The Tri-City Press Club is an organization representing some sixty odd working newspaper men of the Cities of Rock Island, Moline and Davenport. The condition of active membership is identical with the editorial or business departments of the papers and other reputable journals of the three cities. Two other classes of membership are honorary and non-resident. The Club was organized at a banquet tendered representatives of the press of the three cities at Black Hawk Inn by Charles McHugh and J. F. Lardner, in September, 1898. The Club at its first meeting elected Mr. McHugh and Mr. Lardner honorary members, and since that time has added the names of H. E. Downer, of Davenport; J. T. McCutcheon, George Ade, H. B. Chamberlain, R. E. Little, W. J. Bryan, Captain W. T. Thompson, Rabbi W. H. Fineschreiber, Henry Watterson, James Whitcomb Riley and Sir Robert Ball to that list.

The following have served as presidents: 1898, Walter Johnson, Rock Island; 1899, J. E. Calkins, Davenport; 1900; P. S. McGlynn, Moline; 1901, H. P. Simpson, Rock Island; 1902, L. P. McClarrien, Davenport; 1903, J. H. McKeever, Moline; 1904, Robert

Rexdale, Rock Island; 1905, B. F. Tillinghast, Davenport; 1906, John Sundine, Moline; 1907, Val. J. Peter, Rock Island.

The Club meets alternately in Moline, Rock Island and Davenport, each business meeting being supplemented by an entertaining and instructive program and dinner. Each year the Club becomes sponsor for a high class, intellectual public entertainment. The Club is affiliated with the National Association of Press Clubs.

### THE INDUSTRIAL HOME.

The Rock Island Industrial Home Association was formed at a mass-meeting of the members of the labor unions of the City, headed by the Knights of Labor, held in December, 1887.

The branches of organized labor represented in the association, in the beginning, included Knights of Labor, printers, glass-blowers, tailors, iron molders, cigar makers, carpenters, switchmen and locomotive firemen.

The first efforts of the association were turned toward the raising of a fund with which to purchase a lot and erect a home for labor. To do this an annual fair was instituted. The first one was held in February, 1889, and \$2,200 cleared. In the Fall a picnic netted another substantial sum. The Labor Day picnics now take the place of the original affairs; being held alternately in the three cities, Rock Island, Moline and Davenport, under the auspices of the three Industrial Home Associations. The first meetings were held at Norris Hall; Hillier's Hall being later used as headquarters for a period of five years before the home was opened in 1896. The first property the association purchased was a lot at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Twentieth Street. This was sold when the present site for the home was purchased, at the corner of Third Avenue and Twenty-first Street.

The erection of the home was accomplished in 1894, and was taken possession of in 1896

—it being a handsome three-story brick building, with two large stores on the ground floor, offices and halls for meeting places for the labor organizations on the second floor, and a large hall on the third floor. Its cost was \$28,000. The financial affairs of the association are in the hands of T. H. Thomas, who has acted as agent, with power of attorney, since the building was erected. The present indebtedness is \$7,000, with \$3,000 more needed to complete the building in accordance with the original plans. These include the installing of a library, gymnasium, bath rooms and everything in fact to make it a complete home, or club house, for the use of laboring men.

### THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Nearly thirty years ago the first Association was formed in Rock Island, with the same general objects as the present institution. It was engendered by a great religious revival, and E. W. Spencer, one of the originators of the idea, was elected the first president. Rooms were opened in the postoffice block, and Sunday afternoons religious meetings for young men were held. At the end of two years Mr. Spencer was called to other fields, necessitating his resignation, and the work was allowed to lapse.

The present Y. M. C. A. had its origin in 1884, A. M. Bruner, R. W. Salisbury and John Perritt being the prime movers. April 20, of that year, the Association was born at a meeting held at the Central Presbyterian Church, and thirty-eight members were signed to the rolls. Frank Nadler was chosen president, and George P. Lyman secretary. June 3 the formal opening of rooms over 1729 Second Avenue was held. The following February a general secretary was called in the person of George Warner, of Minneapolis. At the end of the first year there were sixty-five members.

The Ladies' Central Committee was formed as an auxiliary, in September, 1885, and in December of the same year the Association was incorporated. In March, 1886, new quarters were taken over the Peoples National Bank. F. W. Lang of Menominee, Wisconsin, assumed the duties of general secretary in August, 1886. In the Fall of that year ten delegates were sent to the State convention at Rockford.

The building movement was begun in January, 1887, at a gospel service held at Reynolds, Illinois, by a few young men, where two little girls, Anna Stewart and Libbie Schoonmaker, who were interested in pictures shown of Y. M. C. A. buildings, each gave fifty cents without solicitation "to put up a building at Rock Island for young men;" later a like amount was given by Louie Bowman, one of our boys. This dollar and a half was the nucleus of the fund which gave us our \$50,000 property and interested over seven hundred contributors. At a meeting of the members a few months later \$1,000 was pledged and a building committee appointed.

The present site was bought from the Henderson estate for \$4,000, the heirs throwing off \$1,000 as a contribution to the cause.

The contract for the foundation of the building was let at a meeting of interested business men at the residence of P. L. Mitchell, held September 24, 1888, Larkin and Stephens being the successful bidders.

The cornerstone was laid June 26, 1890, Mayor McConochie putting it in place, assisted by the three young persons who were the first contributors. One of the notable features of the exercises was the reading of a letter from Sir George Williams of London, England, the founder of the Y. M. C. A.

At the opening of the year 1900, about \$15,000 had been subscribed, and March 28 of that year the contract for the superstructure was let to Collins Brothers for \$15,189.

A library was started with a book reception. Later the Franklin Hose Company donated its splendid collection of books and a book case.

Educational classes were started.

The ladies were first organized as a central committee, then as the ladies auxiliary. They are now the association helpers. They raised hundreds of dollars for the big debt, and furnished a large part of the building; through their influence the ladies of the First M. E. Church furnished the reading room; the correspondence room (now office of the boys secretary) was furnished by the Ladies Aid Society of South Heights; the directors room by the King's Daughters and the chapel by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

In November, 1895, through the generosity of the late J. W. Potter, proprietor of the *Argus*, the auxiliary published a sixteen-page Thanksgiving edition of the *Argus*, which was a decided success.

The new building was completed sufficiently to admit of its occupation April 2, 1891, but another canvass for money had to be undertaken to provide for the furnishing and completing of certain parts to place them in a condition to use. September 1, 1891, G. C. Blakeslee became general secretary in place of Mr. Lang.

At the eighth annual meeting of the Association, April 20, 1892, prominent speakers from all over the middle west were secured and \$6,400 was raised, and in a month more conditional pledges were secured that raised the general fund to \$18,000. The Ladies' Central Committee offered \$500 on condition that the amount specified be raised by September 1. August 29 the sum of \$732 was still needed, and by a great effort it was secured during the two days following.

Building operations upon the interior were resumed, and as the funds became available, completed, and January 1, 1894, the contractors turned the building over to the Association.

practically as it stands today, with the gymnasium, bath and dressing rooms, and the auditorium ready for use. In a short time the membership was raised from one hundred to three hundred. The annual dues for senior members was placed at five dollars. W. L. Lavender was chosen the first physical director December 1, 1895. The next year J. P. Bailey succeeded Mr. Blakeslee as general secretary, and after two years' service, the former gave way to J. S. Freeman. At the same time as the latter change was made, B. G. Hanks took the position of physical director. J. C. Pentland first took charge of the work in 1899.

The total membership is now three hundred. In the Winter season just closing about 7,000 individuals have taken exercise in the gymnasium. About forty men are enrolled in the bible classes, and every branch of the work is in the most flourishing condition that has prevailed since the forming of the Association.

A number of members have entered into life service for the Master, among whom we remember Charles Knox, J. Akers and Edward Young, in the ministry; George Warner, Graham Lee and R. C. Ricker, missionaries in foreign lands; A. M. Bruner, Henry Hansen, Louis A. Bowman, Orville Yerbury, J. S. Freeman, Henry Voss and Chauncey Tuttle in the Association secretaryship.

The first board of directors were: Frank Nadler, president; A. M. Bruner, first vice-president; F. H. Kaupke, second vice-president; G. P. Lyman, recording secretary; J. D. Warnock, treasurer; J. W. Welch, Charles Jensen, F. J. Akers, C. E. Adams, J. W. Stewart, E. B. McKown, W. F. Gilmore-George Chambers.

The original building committee comprised: A. M. Blaksley, chairman; E. B. McKown, treasurer; J. F. Robinson, J. W. Stewart, J. W. Welch, C. E. Adams, A. D. Sperry, Frank Nadler, George M. Looseley, A. M. Bruner, F. H. Kaupke.

#### BUFORD BLOCK.

The old Buford Block at the northeast corner of Second Avenue and West Seventeenth Street, which has just been torn down to be replaced by a new reinforced concrete six-story modern business block, was erected in 1854. Sixty feet of this corner was purchased by Charles Buford from Charles K. Smith February 23, 1854; a little later he purchased the adjoining thirty feet east from Judge George W. Pleasants and Doctor John W. Bulkeley. The old buildings on this corner were sold at auction March 11, 1854, Major Benjamin F. Barrett being the auctioneer. The excavation for the foundation immediately commenced. Wednesday July 19, 1854, the brick laying commenced by W. H. Sage, commonly known as "Doc" Sage. The exterior was finished that Fall, and the building completed early in 1855.

Bailey and Boyle also commenced work on their three-story brick block, covering the ground between East and West Seventeenth Streets, and Illinois Street and the Alley north, and Ainsworth and Lynde a large brick warehouse on Front Street opposite the present site of Hotel Harms.

Before Winter two more brick buildings were under construction.

#### CITY OF MOLINE.

##### LOWELL OF THE WEST

Appropriate, indeed, is the above quoted appellation to the City of Moline, for nowhere between Chicago, east, and San Francisco, west, nor between St. Paul, north, and St. Louis, south, is there a city which can so fittingly disport the magnitude of her industries and her products, or demonstrate a more rapid growth. Why Moline has been enabled to win so many manufacturing establishments in the industrial field is merely a matter of supposition—either because of the utility of the water power, or that the



thrifty hands and fertile brains which established them considered her future more promising during their days of early struggle.

Moline is an industrial city, pure and simple. Her shops are numbered among the largest of their kind extant. The Moline Wagon Company being admittedly the largest wagon shop in the world, while Deere and Company and the Moline Plow Company consume more raw steel than any other plow shop in existence.

A potent factor in the growth of Moline undoubtedly hinges upon the enormity and utility of the water power which her manufacturers, with the assistance of the Government, have brought to such a high state of availability and within easy reach. Just recently the Government has expended an immense sum in harnessing that portion of the Mississippi which flows by Moline so that the Arsenal, as well as private enterprises, might profit by securing motive power at a more nominal figure than it has heretofore been possible to do.

Second Avenue, in Moline, reminds a stranger more of the manufacturing sections of Pittsburg or Milwaukee than the industries of a town her size; but when the impressive dimensions of the Moline Plow Company, Deere and Company, The Moline Wagon Company, Deere and Mansur Company, The Steel Mills, Velie Carriage Company, The Moline Furniture Works, Williams and White Company, The Organ Works, Barnard and Leas, The Moline Pump Company, Cooper Saddlers Harness Company, The Moline Incandescent Light Company, and the scores of other lesser establishments, are contemplated, this fact does not appear so strange. Over 7,000 men are employed in Moline in her numerous shops, while East Moline and Silvis employ half that many more. At Silvis are located the Rock Island shops, the largest car shops in the world.

The output of Moline consists of every character of farm implements, gasoline en-

gines, heavy drop and forging machinery, wagons, carriages, steam engines, wood-working machinery, flour mill machinery, pumps, organs, malleable iron castings, steel billets, furniture, scales, harness fixtures, wheels, and a score of other much used and nationally known articles.

The same railroads which enter Rock Island—the Rock Island Route, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Davenport, Rock Island and Northwestern—also penetrate Moline, and have accommodated the manufacturers with spurs of tracks for switching and side tracks that represent an enormous saving in handling cars.

Her lodges and buildings, public and private, her library, hospitals, church edifices and schools easily compare with any city in the middle west.

In Moline proper nearly \$30,000,000 are invested, and the average annual output is given at \$12,500,000. The town has fifty-six miles of well kept streets, thirty-two miles of sidewalks, twenty miles of sewers, twenty-five miles of water mains, fifteen miles of paved streets, and her population is nearly 22,000, and of that rugged, thrifty class which characterize so many of our manufacturing districts.

#### EVENTS OF EARLY DAYS.

The original proprietors of the water power, in 1841-42, laid out some lots on the south side of Main Street, now Second Avenue, opposite the grounds now occupied by the Plow Works, and formerly occupied in part by the old grist mill, which was built in 1841 by David B. Sears, John W. Spencer and Spencer H. White, as was also the dam, and named the place "Rock Island Mills." The plat, however, was never recorded. In 1843 Charles Atkinson, D. B. Sears and others purchased of Huntington Wells a portion of his farm lying east of the Rock Island Mills property, and they, together with the owners

of the latter, laid out the town of Moline, the same year. There were then but thirteen dwellings on the ground platted, and these were owned by Huntington Wells, D. B. Sears, Charles Atkinson, Benedict Patterson, Haskins Reynolds, Bell, Huntoon, Berham, Weis, White and Kinzie. Subsequently Charles Atkinson laid out his first addition, which was followed by his second addition in 1856; since which various additions have been made from time to time, till the place has reached its present wide corporate dimensions. It extends on the east to the city limits of Rock Island, and west from that point about one and three quarter miles, and is about two miles in width north and south, with plenty of room to grow in either direction.

Moline was quite early incorporated as a town, but the records having perished in a fire, we have no authentic information respecting the first municipal organization and officers. It was, however, incorporated as a city under the General Law of the State approved April 10, 1872. On the third of that month a petition was presented to the board of trustees of the town of Moline asking the question of the adoption of a city government, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the town for their decision. The petition was granted, and in pursuance thereof an election was held on Tuesday, August 6, 1872, resulting as follows:

For city organization, 261 votes; against city organization, 22 votes; for minority representation in the city council, 21 votes; against minority representation in the city council, 247 votes.

On Tuesday, August 29, 1872, the election for city officers was held, and the following named persons were elected: Mayor, Daniel L. Wheelock; city clerk, Orrin K. Ferguson; city attorney, John T. Browning; aldermen, George W. Vinton, Luke E. Hemenway, Jermain S. Keator, Marvil H. White, Henry Klahn, Charles W. Lobdell, Swan Hanson, Daniel W. Dimock, Charles F. Hemenway.

These represent the first set of city officers elected in Moline, following the conversion of the town into a city.

In 1843 David Sears opened the first store in the house in which he lived, which was in close proximity to the grist mill. The first hotel dates from 1843, and was conducted by Huntington Wells. In 1842 Joseph Huntoon opened a shoe shop, and two years later Grove W. Bell was the town tailor. In 1843 Aynes Kinzie started a blacksmith shop on the ground since occupied by Deere and Company, and in 1847 the nucleus of the world famed shops of Deere and Company was laid. The first school house was built by private subscription in 1843, and of brick, where religious meetings were also held. Joseph Jackman was the first teacher, followed by S. P. Hodges, who was afterwards county clerk. The first bank was the First National Bank, organized in 1863.

#### MOLINE POSTOFFICE.

The Moline postoffice was established in 1844, with David B. Sears as the first postmaster. The office was located in the "Brick Store" (a building owned by Mr. Sears, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets on Second Avenue.)

Following him Dr. Wells had the office in a little room about twelve by sixteen feet on the alley corner of Seventeenth Street between First and Second Avenues. George W. Bell succeeded Wells and moved the office south to the corner where he had a tailor shop. Joseph J. Jackman was the next postmaster, and he again moved the office going east about half a block on Second Avenue. In 1856 Absolom B. Williams was appointed postmaster and he was succeeded in July, 1857, by Judge John M. Gould, who moved the office west on Second Avenue to the lot adjoining the present postoffice building and in the rear of the present site of the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank. Judge Gould had

a bank here and the postoffice was placed in the rear of the bank room. Judge Gould was succeeded April 17, 1861, by William Kerns, who served until June, 1865, when George D. Gould, a brother of Judge Gould, took the office and held it until August 11, 1869, when Mr. Kerns again took it. He was succeeded by Henry E. Wells, who gave place April 1, 1877, to Luke E. Hemenway. Dan W. Gould took possession February 1, 1886, being the third of the Gould brothers to hold that place. John M. Holt succeeded him April 1, 1890, to be followed July 4, 1894, by M. J. McEniry, who held the office until October 1, 1897, when he gave way to George H. McKinley, who was followed March 1, 1906, by W. F. Eastman, the present postmaster.

The office remained in the banking room of Judge Gould until October, 1873, when it was removed to the old library building on the corner of Fifteenth and Library Streets, where it remained until July, 1885, when it was temporarily placed in the building on the south side of Third Avenue (two doors from Seventeenth Street) until December, 1885, when it was moved to the present site on Third Avenue and Sixteenth Street. A site has been purchased for a new building at the corner of Third Avenue and Eighteenth Streets, and there is an appropriation of \$96,000 for the construction of a new building, which it is expected will be occupied in 1909.

The first available report of the receipts of the postoffice is one published by Mr. Hemenway of the receipts in the calendar year of 1879. This shows the total receipts of the office to be \$15,346.50. There were 3,158 money orders issued for \$30,667.12, and 2,355 paid for \$36,014.33. There were 640 registered letters sent and 1,269 received. The total number of pieces of mail dispatched was \$61,389. Business had not come to that point that the office was opened Sunday.

The reports of the auditor of the postoffice department show a rapid growth. In 1891 the number of stamps sold amounted to \$24,433.28, and this was increased the next year more than \$5,000. Then followed five years of depression, and it was not until the year ending June 30, 1897, that there was an increase; the figures then being \$31,465.16. Since then there has been a steady increase, averaging something more than eleven per cent annually. On account of the financial depression the receipts for the last year were but little more than in the previous one, having been \$79,306.19. An increase to \$90,000 is confidently expected the current fiscal year.

At the same time the number of pieces of mail dispatched has so increased that in one week of 1907 when they were counted there were 148,192 pieces, which would be at the rate of nearly as many in six weeks as were dispatched in the entire year of 1879.

The total number of money orders sold in the last year—1907—was 27,341, of a value of \$258,755.43 and there were 10,789 paid, with a value of \$95,667.32. The total number of registers sent and received was 15,463.

This is the roster of the office August 24, 1908: Postmaster, W. F. Eastman; assistant postmaster, John A. Godehn; clerks, in order of appointment, A. C. Dorman, John McEniry, C. V. Gould, F. L. Rogerson, H. E. Olson, N. L. Anderson, W. L. Olson, Orlando Metz, A. L. Hallquist, C. W. Heimbeck, P. E. Colson, Lilla M. Fulsinger, with D. W. Warnock, Ethel L. McCanon and Elmer Heck as substitutes; carriers, in order of appointment, W. G. Baker, F. C. Viereich, J. M. Hartzell, F. N. Pierce, G. E. Carlson, J. W. Dewrose, C. F. Grantz, Neander Johnson, O. J. Wilson, F. H. Wilson, C. W. Becker, A. O. Anderson, John Wind, A. E. Lundeen, A. E. Burlingame, Victor Youngberg, with C. O. Hanson, J. H. Becker, Frank Spriet and Paul Young as substitutes, and Thomas Stewart as rural carrier.

There are six stations with W. H. Christison, Charles Brunstrom, C. C. Coyne, M. W. Battles, Jr., John L. Jennisch and August Sundine in charge.

Henry Robinson is janitor and special delivery messenger.

The first carriers went on duty July 1, 1887, Messrs. Baker and Hanson being two of the original four. Mr. Baker has been on duty continuously since, but Mr. Hanson resigned near the end of his twentieth year to go into business.

#### MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

According to the recollections of the "oldest inhabitant" the first fire department of Moline was organized in 1852. A hand engine, the "Metamora," together with a hose cart, and about two thousand feet of hose, constituted the entire fire apparatus of the city. Charles H. Deere was fireman of the hose company, and Doctor Sweetland foreman of the "Metamora." L. B. Mapes, M. A. Gould, William Watt, H. E. Mapes, J. A. Holt and Frank Kerns were among the members. The "Metamora" was a mammoth concern, and a regular man-killer; but the boys claim that with twenty men on a side they could

"Throw water higher

And pump a well dryer"

than can be done with any modern invention.

There were banquets, balls and tournaments in those days, and it is said that a finer appearing company than the "Molines" could not be found, and when on dress parade, won not only the admiration of the men, but captured the fair sex as well.

L. B. Mapes and William Watt were two likely young bloods, and when in harness were known as the "team of sorrels." With meager and cumbersome apparatus, this company rendered excellent service under extreme difficulties; and their deeds of daring are seldom equalled in the fires of today.

Among the principal fires fought by the first firemen were those of the Howe, Childs and Mapes' mills, in 1855; Sears' mills, Shaw's dry goods store, Dunn's hardware store; fires that tried the courage and nerve of the firemen. From 1865 down to the organization of the present department there are many missing links. The old "Metamora" was kept until 1872, and then sold to Milan, a steam fire engine being purchased and named the "Mississippi," which is still on hand, but not in service.

Then was organized one of the most remarkable organizations in the history of the pioneer service: the A. O. T. (always on time) company. This company rendered strenuous and valuable service at the large and disastrous fire of the J. S. Keator saw mills, a loss of the entire plant with over ten million feet of lumber, making a total loss of \$300,000. Fire help was called for, Rock Island responding with Rescue Steam Fire Engine No. 2, and Phoenix and Wide-Awake hose companies, and the Sash Factory hose company. Davenport sent over the Fire King Steamer and Fire King hose company. Colonel Flagler sent "Uncle Sam" over from the Arsenal, Geneseo coming down with their engine and fire company. The Deere hose throwing first water, closely followed by the A. O. T. company and the Minnehahas. The old "Mississippi" did magnificent work. All the firemen were deserving of unusual and unstinted praise, and all equally deserving of worthy mention for their heroic work on that memorable night. The ladders of the first hook and ladder truck were constructed of two by fours, and very crude.

The old Volunteer chiefs were: Isaac Anderson, Phil Williams, C. O. Nason, Morey, Flickinger, and Levi S. Cralle.

A new organization was effected in June, 1884: B. B. Peregoy, chief; followed by J. M. Hartzell, Albert Abing, A. Williams, Nels Peterson, James J. Trevor, H. C. Reese, for 1894, 1895, 1896. The department

at this time consisted of one hundred men, and was subdivided into four hose companies and one hook and ladder truck company, and one steam fire engine. The hose companies were the Union No. 1, Onward No. 2, Minnehaha No. 3, and Deane No. 4. In 1893 the Union hose company No. 1 disbanded and a new company formed called the Columbia No. 1. There were also four independent hose companies, representing the following manufactories: Deere and Company, Moline Plow Company, Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Company, and Deere and Mansur Company; each company being thoroughly equipped with all modern appliances.

The present paid department was organized October 1, 1896, the chief being H. C. Reese, the old volunteer chief, and J. Q. Hawk, assistant chief. Shortly afterward John Q. Hawk was appointed chief, and through his efficiency has held the position to the present time; the assistant chief now being F. Oscar Youngren.

The department stations are:

Central Fire Station No. 1, 510-514 Fourteenth Street.

Hose Company No. 2, 1317 Fourteenth Avenue; captain, Thomas Welch.

Hose Company No. 3, captain, James J. Trevor.

Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, being housed at Central Fire Hall.

The full force of the department is twenty men. The apparatus consists of: Three two-horse wagons in service, one two-horse wagon in reserve, one hook and ladder truck, one chief's buggy.

The department has one of the finest fire alarm systems, being the Gamewell Fire Alarm System. To W. F. Channing of Boston, and M. G. Farmer of Salem, Massachusetts, is due the credit for the first successful employment of electricity for giving instantaneous, universal and indefinite alarms in case of fires. In 1855 Gamewell and

Company became the owners of all patents of Channing and Farmer. The fire-alarm telegraph system of Moline consists of a central or battery station, located at the water works; the wire circuit, which connects the central station with the street signal boxes and the alarm apparatus, consisting of combined electro-mechanical gong-strikers and indicators, located in the hose houses, and residence of the chief of the fire department; the indicators showing in plain figures the number of the signal-box from which the alarm originates. A repeater is placed in the central telephone office, and each telephone has a "fire number" corresponding with that of the street signal-box.

#### MOLINE WATER WORKS DEPARTMENT

The City of Moline has an unusually good water works system (the supply coming from the Mississippi River), consisting of a pumping station and filtering plant, and thirty-five miles of street water mains, with three hundred and twenty-five city fire hydrants, fifty private hydrants, and two hundred and forty-five valves. The number of gallons of water filtered during the year ending April 1, 1908, amounted to 988,419,230 gallons, or 2,700,598 gallons per day. The total number of gallons of water pumped to the City of Moline for the said year was 949,711,378 gallons, being a daily consumption of 2,594,839 gallons, being a daily increase over the previous year of 151,792 gallons. They have 3,250 service taps, making an average of 831 gallons of water per day to each tap, or a per capita consumption of one hundred gallons for the entire City of Moline. The consumption of fuel for the past year was 7,114,000 pounds of coal, being 19,437 pounds for each day. By computation, filtering 1,904 gallons of water for each pound of coal consumed. Cost of coal for past year \$5,838.59, or \$17.95 for each twenty-four hours. Coagulates used the past year in the filtering plant, 412,870 pounds of lime, being 743 grains for each



gallon; 106.780 pounds of iron, or .81 grains per gallon; 19.875 pounds of alum, or 2.146 grains per gallon. 923,326.790 gallons of water were filtered with lime and iron at a cost of \$1.17 per million gallons of water; the cost of iron being seventy-five cents per million gallons. Water filtered by alum at a cost of \$3.05 per million gallons. Cost of filtering water for the past year has been \$5,881.20, or \$5.95 per million gallons. The total cost of pumping and filtering the water used during the past year, including all expenses at the water works and filtering plant, and water main expenses, has been \$22,787.16, or equal to \$22.04 per million gallons.

#### MOLINE SCHOOLS.

The first school house in Moline was built in 1843 on the north west corner of Sixteenth Street and Fourth Avenue, where the Burlington freight house now stands. "The people of the new town," says an old settler, "felt the need of a school, and of some place in which to hold religious meetings." Accordingly the owners of the town site donated two lots; a subscription was circulated and a brick school house built, which was for several years used also as a place of worship by different denominations. The first teacher, who also served as city clerk and justice of the peace, was Joseph Jackman, a native of Massachusetts, where he had been a school mate of Honorable Charles Atkinson. The school was subsequently taught by S. P. Hodges, who afterwards became county clerk. The present school system dates from April, 1873, when, under the city charter, and in accordance with the revised school laws, the following board of education was elected: C. A. Wheelock, president; H. H. Grover, secretary; William H. Edwards, Ezra Smith, C. C. Nathan and Jonathan Huntoon.

During the following year the board purchased sites for two new school houses; for the West Ward school, six lots of John

Deere, for the East Ward school a part of H. R. Edwards block, paying respectively \$3,000 and \$1,500 in bonds. The Central school which also contained the High school, was erected on the old site, the contract calling for an outlay of \$25,000. From these beginnings has grown the present excellent system, which according to the last school report is housed in ten large buildings, with all modern improvements, employing one hundred and twelve teachers, including special teachers and superintendent; and expended for instruction and supervision alone, exclusive of care and maintenance of buildings and grounds for the season of 1907, \$68,186.74. The course of study begins with the kindergarten; carries the child through eight grades into the High school, from which, after four years, he may pass on to any of the leading universities or colleges, or find himself equipped with a good education for the business of life. Throughout the course there is instruction by special teachers in music, drawing, physical culture and the "higher grades," and in the High school is offered industrial work, in the shape of cooking and sewing for the girls, and manual training for the boys, looking possibly to the establishment before many years of a model trade school; an advantage much to be desired in such a manufacturing center as Moline.

The enrollment of all the schools for 1907 was 3,836 pupils.

#### MOLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Next to the public schools of Moline as a popular educative agency, is the Carnegie Public Library and reading rooms. Indeed this latter institution, in the design of its founders, is intended to carry up education to a higher plane than that reached by the public schools, and to lead to a broader and more comprehensive intellectual culture. To this end, its plan comprehends not merely a collection of books, newspapers and magazines,

but also an art gallery, a place of amusement and social conversation, a collection of rare curiosities and cabinets of natural history and the various sciences.

Measures for the establishment of such an institution in the City of Moline were taken in the Summer of 1872, soon after the passage of the law allowing cities and towns to raise money by taxation for library purposes. The mayor, Honorable D. L. Wheelock, on the 21st of September, 1872, appointed the following named persons a board of directors of the Moline Public Library: J. T. Browning, Eugene Lewis, S. H. Velie, J. C. Starr, William H. Russell, H. A. Ainsworth, H. H. Grover and E. Okerberg. Mr. Okerberg declined to serve, and his place was filled by Honorable Charles Atkinson.

On the 21st of September, 1872, the board organized by electing the following officers: President, J. T. Browning; vice-president, J. T. Starr; secretary and collector, H. H. Grover; executive committee, Messrs. Starr, Velie and Grover; finance committee, Messrs. Browning, Velie and Atkinson. On books in foreign languages, Messrs. Parker, Russell and Ainsworth. On English books, Messrs. Ainsworth, Russell and Lewis.

In the Summer of 1872 the City Council appropriated \$800. A meeting was called on the 17th of December, and \$3,000 were pledged, the ladies organizing into a society and becoming responsible for \$500 of the amount. This sum was soon increased to \$5,576.24. Rooms were obtained in the post-office building of the Honorable S. W. Wheelock; the first installment of books was purchased, and the library opened to the public January 6, 1873. Mrs. Kate S. Holt was appointed librarian March 29, 1873.

The library found a generous patron in the person of Honorable S. W. Wheelock, whose munificent donation primarily secured a permanent building for the library. Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock contributed \$500 toward the original fund of the library. As soon as the

plans were completed, they also tendered the board the use of the second floor of the post-office building, which was accepted. Mr. Wheelock always manifested great interest in the library, and planned with broad and comprehensive views of its usefulness.

On the 10th of March, 1877, he passed over to the board a deed of the postoffice building, the erection of which cost upwards of \$20,000, and which was occupied until the opening of the new building.

The new Carnegie library opened to the public January 26, 1904, was erected at a cost of \$70,000, of this sum Andrew Carnegie contributed \$37,000. The business Men's Association of Moline constituted the most potent factor in securing this sum from the iron master. At first Mr. Carnegie denied the requests for his aid in erecting a library, but after a time, the matter was again urged upon him by W. A. Jones, who succeeded in his quest, and August 31, 1901, Moline was given notice that Mr. Carnegie had acquiesced, and would donate \$37,000. In response to a second request that the contribution be made \$50,000 instead of \$37,000, Mr. Carnegie raised the sum to \$40,000. September 4, 1901, the library board accepted Mr. Carnegie's gift, and it was endorsed by the City Council. November 8, 1901, the following were elected a building committee: C. A. Barnard, L. D. Dunn, Honorable W. A. Meese, O. F. Anderson, R. C. J. Meyers.

December 3, 1901, the Velie property, corner of Seventeenth Street and Fifth Avenue, was purchased for \$10,000. As the \$40,000 was contributed solely for building purposes the library board decided to solicit public subscriptions to purchase the site, and on the 16th of December twelve \$500 subscriptions had been secured, with other moneys, amounting in all to about \$13,000.

The corner stone was laid May 2, 1903, and the public exhibiting an exceptional interest and enthusiasm in the progress of the building the library board again appealed for public

subscription, to the amount of \$5,500, appending to their request an itemized statement of the finances of the library. As the time elapsed more money was received by subscriptions and donations, until the sum amounted to \$70,000.

December 23, 1903, two bronze memorial tablets were placed in the hallway of the building. They were about two by three feet. The one on the right on entering the library reads: "This building is the gift of Andrew Carnegie. Its furnishings were presented by the citizens of Moline. F. F. Borgolte, Architect." The one on the left reads: "Board of Directors, 1903—C. A. Barnard, President; O. F. Anderson, vice-president; H. S. Hanson, secretary; W. A. Meese, R. C. J. Meyers, L. D. Dunn, M. J. McEniry, G. W. Vinton, W. J. Davis, J. B. Oakleaf.

The building is built of vitrified brick, trimmed with Bedford Blue Stone. It contains 17,000 bound volumes, is equipped with every up-to-date appliance, and is tastily and conveniently arranged.

The present board of directors comprise: Harry Ainsworth, president; W. R. Moore, vice-president; Dr. E. A. Edlen, secretary; directors, H. F. Vierich, Louis H. R. Karwath, Robert W. Rank, Frank Herbst, Dr. E. A. Edlen, W. R. Moore, H. A. Ainsworth and Edward Coryn.

The librarian is Miss Minnie Kohler; assistants, Miss Hattie Skogh and Miss Lilian Owen. The library is open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. on week days, and from 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. on Sundays. The board of directors meets the first Tuesday of each month.

#### MOLINE CITY HOSPITAL.

In 1891 Judge John M. Gould framed a bill and went to Springfield asking the Legislature for a two-mill tax to be levied for hospital purposes for cities under 100,000 inhabitants. After the bill was passed, a home association was formed in 1892 and directors appointed, consisting of Doctor A.

H. Arp, Doctor W. K. Sloan and W. B. Ulman. The directors looked up a site, and during the time until 1898 the tax accumulation and donations enabled them to build, and open the hospital that year with three patients. Prior to this the ladies had formed a society, giving entertainments, the proceeds of which were used in furnishing the hospital. Private individuals furnished private rooms, among which are the Swedish Ladies room of the Swedish Lutheran Church, the Allen room, Charles R. Stephens room, George Arthur Stephens room, the Deere room, the Children's room (furnished and kept by the late Mrs. Sarah L. Atkinson), the S. H. Velie room, and the Athletic Club room. The Ladies Hospital Association have kept up the furnishings. The location selected was the old Hiram Pitts home, where the school was started for the instruction of nurses, and is now called the Nurses' Home. The training school for nurses is supported by the Ladies' Hospital Association, which furnishes their uniforms, and when they graduate gives each of them one hundred dollars. The superintendent of nurses is Miss Margaret Rooney; the matron, Miss Margaret Howe of Muscatine, Iowa; and there are ten nurses in attendance. The first board of directors (appointed by the mayor) was William Butterworth and Doctor August H. Arp.

The number of patients treated since 1898 to August, 1908, amounts to 2,695. The hospital is supported by taxation and fees of patients, and is in very flourishing circumstances, with property in good condition, and self sustaining. The heating plant of the hospital is of the Vacuum Vapor System. A new bill has been presented to the State Legislature praying for the two mill tax to be increased to three mills.

At present William Butterworth is president of the association, and Mrs. Florence D. Sleight, secretary. The staff consists of twenty of the leading physicians of the city. According to the law under which the hospital

was established, any licensed physician in the state can take his patients to this hospital and treat them.

### MOLINE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

#### ORGANIZATION.

On September 11, 1905, an ordinance was passed by the City Council of Moline, creating and establishing a board of health. On January 2, 1906, Dr. R. C. J. Meyer was appointed as the first commissioner, and the first board consisted (as required by ordinance) of the commissioner, Dr. R. C. J. Meyer, chairman; the mayor, Andrew Olsen; the chief of police, Edward Kittleson, secretary. The first meeting of the board was held on January 5, 1906, at which time it was decided that to accomplish the purpose of this department it would be necessary to start with an efficient and competent force of men.

The first order issued was for sobriety, as follows: To the employees of the health department: You are hereby notified not to frequent saloons during working hours; all employees found in saloons during working hours will be immediately discharged. By order of the health department. R. C. J. Meyer, M. D., chairman.

The ordinance requires the health commissioner to set aside one hour each day during which time he may hear complaints, and transact other business in connection with the office. The hour from 2 P. M. to 3 P. M. was selected as the hour best suited for such purposes.

Reports are being made weekly to the Surgeon General Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Monthly reports are made to the City Council, and one to the State Board of Health. The first report to the City Council was made on February 5, 1906, for the month of January, 1906.

#### SYSTEMATIZING.

As this department was a new one a system had to be formulated, so that the work might

be most efficient in the various branches, and the greatest good accomplished at a minimum expense.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

In order that vital statistics might be obtained, records are kept of births, contagion, deaths and burial permits issued. No burial is permitted without such permit; these are made out in duplicate form, giving every important data connected with such burial; one is retained in the office of the health commissioner, the other by the cemetery board; thus a duplicate record is kept.

#### PURE FOOD DIVISION.

A laboratory was established in a room at the water works, and the milk test begun under the guidance and instruction of Professor W. J. Trueman of the State University at Urbana, Illinois. In the inspection of dairies and food stuff valuable assistance was rendered by Frank Hoey, Charles H. Kyellquist and other state inspectors. It was soon found that the faucet used by the milk men was not properly constructed, and a larger and straighter one, one that could be easier cleaned, was recommended and its installation insisted upon; this with other recommendations brought the milk product up to a high standard. At the suggestion of the health commissioner an ordinance was passed by the City Council making it an offense to sell or offer for sale any animal, fish or fowl that was not drawn at the time of slaughter, thus shutting out the cold storage product, and insuring sweet and wholesome meats, with little or no waste to the consumer. A constant supervision is kept for unwholesome food stuffs, and upon the request of the health commissioner, an ordinance was passed granting power to the health department to seize such unwholesome food stuffs and destroy the same; this has had a beneficial effect.

#### CONTAGIOUS DIVISION.

This department encountered an epidemic of scarlet fever, and a great deal of diphtheria, as well as small pox, chicken pox, measles,

etc., early in its history. Rules governing such cases had to be formulated, and enforced; but as the people had been accustomed to laxity in this regard, and did not understand the importance of strict regulations, considerable difficulty was encountered, and some arrests had to be made to enforce the rules. It was soon discovered that the department was handicapped by being surrounded by territory in which the quarantine regulations were not enforced. Arrangements were made by the health commissioners of Moline and of Rock Island to appoint a committee of physicians of Rock Island and Moline to co-operate with the commissioners to formulate rules, and make them operative throughout this territory, as one; and the rules which had been adopted here in Moline were practically adopted, and the contagion stamped out. But not without showing the urgent necessity of a contagious hospital, and through the efforts of Dr. Meyer the physicians were organized and a committee appointed, plans drawn and the City Council requested to provide funds for the construction of such building. This petition was signed by all the physicians in the city, but without effect. Such building was to take care of all contagious, infectious, consumptive, and filthy diseases in the city.

#### SANITARY DIVISION.

The ordinance requires the police department to assist the health department, and all patrolmen are required to report all nuisances and matter detrimental to health to the health commissioner. Besides this a health inspector is provided, to be subordinate to, and under the personal direction of the commissioner of health. Many unsanitary conditions were found and abated. For cleaning the alleys of the city it was found best to divide the city up into districts, and place a man with his cart in charge, and hold him responsible for his district. In the Summer time the rubbish and garbage is collected separately; the garbage is required to be free from water and

placed in covered cans for removal. Weeds are cut before the pollen have a chance to form, and all matters detrimental to health looked after.

#### PUBLIC BATHS.

It has long been known that boys and young men were in the habit of frequenting the slough and river for bathing purposes, seeking out of the way and often dangerous places. To rectify such evils and to minimize the dangers incident to such practices, the health commissioner sought to establish a suitable place, and under proper supervision, where the pleasures of the bath might be enjoyed, and the City Council was appealed to for permission to establish a bathing beach at Twenty-fifth Street, which was finally granted and construction commenced, but owing to various difficulties, has not been completed.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Realizing the necessity of better accommodations for the public, and especially the stranger, the health commissioner urged the City Council to take the initiative and establish accommodations in the City Park, and the ministers were urged to make provisions in their respective churches, with a general supervision entrusted to the police force, but so far nothing has been done.

#### DEFECTS IN HEALTH ORDINANCE.

In establishing the Health Department of Moline, Health Commissioner Dr. R. C. J. Meyer discovered many defects in the health ordinance, and at various times recommended changes, and in his annual report for 1906 recommended an entire recast to be made. Because of its many defects, and because the health commissioner is supposed to have supervision of all sanitary matters, but is shorn of the power to enforce his orders. For the reason that the men who are hired by the board that are not appointed by the City Council, it is impossible for him to get rid of incompetent, disobedient help if the board sees fit to keep them on the pay roll,



nor is the health commissioner able to administer the affairs of his department with strict economy under such conditions. Dr. Meyer held that money is spent extravagantly, for instance the inspector and the barn boss should be one, and the one salary saved to the people. Such and other recommendations were made by Dr. Meyer, but without avail. Dr. Meyer also held that this department above all departments should be kept out of politics, in order that the greatest good may be accomplished for the people.

The civic department of the Womans' Club have been a great help to the health department and a great deal of credit is due them for their labors.

#### RIVERSIDE CEMETERY.

The old Moline Cemetery consisted of about five acres, from the north center of the Bill Mills farm, each lot holder being a member of the Association. The association turning this over to the City of Moline, who purchased seventy-five acres more and afterwards ten acres additional, making altogether ninety acres.

The first burial ground in the Village of Moline was where Charles H. Deere's residence now is, bodies being removed to the present old cemetery, from which a considerable number have been removed to the new part; some interments are still made in the older portion.

The Moline Cemetery Association was incorporated by special charter in 1851. The petitioners for a charter were A. J. Perkins, Hiram Hull, A. F. Swander, R. N. Tate, Joseph Jackman, L. E. Oker and George P. Vesey. It was granted power to own real estate not to exceed ten acres, and funeral property not to exceed at one time five hundred dollars. At the first meeting of the stockholders (owners of lots) held May 5, 1851, for the purpose of electing trustees, eighty-one votes were cast; M. Grenell, N. C. Tyrrell and Joseph Jackman were elected.

This board of trustees appointed S. P. Hodges secretary, Joseph Jackman treasurer, and Joseph Pershing sexton. An ordinance to establish and regulate the Riverside Cemetery of the City of Moline, was passed June 7, 1873. This ordinance dedicated to the purpose of burial, the present Riverside Cemetery, and vested its management in a board of directors, one of whom should be the mayor of the city, who, *ex-officio*, was to be the chairman of the board, the six other members to be appointed by the mayor and consent of the City Council. John Deere was mayor at this time, and the following were appointed members of the board, viz: H. O. Sleight, A. S. Wright, C. W. Lobdell, D. L. Wheelock, H. H. Grover and A. Williams. C. W. Lobdell was elected secretary and treasurer July 25, 1873. At this meeting a resolution was passed requesting the City Council to act upon securing other grounds further removed from the city, it being "the opinion of the cemetery board that the present location of the cemetery will permanently injure the growth of the city and retard its prosperity." The City Council took no favorable action in the matter, and the plan of Daniel Gordon, surveyor, for laying out the grounds in its several outlines was adopted by the board. The same year (1873) it was voted to close the public entrance to the old cemetery and to move the gates to Ann Street (Sixth Avenue) forthwith. The present lodge, for the use of the superintendent of Riverside Cemetery, was built in 1884.

#### MOLINE MANUFACTURIES.

##### MOLINE PLOW COMPANY.

The business that eventually grew into the Moline Plow Company was originally started by Henry Candee and R. K. Swan. Associated with them were Mr. L. E. Hemenway, J. B. Wyckoff and others. They manufactured successfully fanning mills and hay-racks, in a wooden building located on the

present site of the magnificent plant of the Moline Plow Company.

This business was started in 1865, and shortly after Andrew Friberg associated himself with the company, and the manufacture of plows was taken up.

In 1866 Mr. George Stephens added enough capital to the business to make him an equal partner with the others, and for a number of years the business was carried on under the firm name of Candee, Swan and Company. Mr. George Stephens being in charge of the woodworking department; Mr. Friberg of the blacksmith shop and iron work; Mr. Swan did the business and attended to the sale of the product, and Mr. Candee kept the accounts. The business proved a profitable one, and in 1870 was incorporated under the name of "Moline Plow Company" with an authorized capital of \$400,000, about \$300,000 of which was paid up. Several other parties became interested as stockholders in the concern, prominent among them being Captain Good, A. L. Carson, S. W. Wheelock and A. R. Bryant.

The first president of the corporation was Mr. R. K. Swan; the second president Mr. S. W. Wheelock, who died in 1891. After the death of Mr. Wheelock, Mr. George Stephens was elected president. His son, Mr. George Arthur Stephens, and son-in-law, Mr. F. G. Allen were made co-managers and given entire charge of the business.

The company at that time had a paid up capital of \$800,000, which has been increased from time to time until it now reaches the enormous sum of \$6,000,000, the manufactured product having in the meantime increased proportionately until Moline plows are known the world over.

In 1884 they brought out the Flying Dutchman sulky plow, which revolutionized the sulky plow business the world over. Previous to that time all sulky plows had been of the two wheels variety, and in this respect are followers of the world-famous Flying Dutchman.

The sale of this plow did a great deal towards the building up of the business and making the line manufactured by the Moline Plow Company popular with the farming community.

In 1886 the Moline Champion corn planter was bought out and produced a revolution in the manufacture of the corn planter almost equal to that produced by the Flying Dutchman in sulky plows.

Up to the time they began the manufacture of the Moline Champion corn planter, the company had never built a corn planter, and in a very short time they were the leading manufacturers of this class tools.

Beginning as plow manufacturers, they have from time to time taken on the manufacture of cultivators, harrows, disc harrows, pulverizers, potato diggers, stalk cutters, cotton planters, cane tools, sugar beet tools, and in fact, practically everything used in the way of agricultural implements excepting grain drills and harvesting machinery.

The present branch house system was inaugurated after Mr. George Stephens was elected president. Prior to that time the product had been sold partially through traveling salesmen, partially through the jobbing trade and partially through some jobbing arrangements, of which the Plow Company was part owner.

The first branch house of the present system was started at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1892; was followed very shortly by one at Omaha, Nebraska, and since that time branch houses have been organized at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dallas, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; Stockton, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; Winnipeg, Canada; Denver, Colorado; New Orleans, Louisiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Portland, Oregon, and the Dakota-Moline Plow Company, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, making in all fourteen magnificent branch houses, all of which, with one exception, the Moline-Bain Company, at Portland, Oregon, are owned

and controlled by the Moline Plow Company.

In addition to the enormous trade developed in the United States, their foreign trade has grown until it is a very considerable business in itself.

The Moline Plow Company and its branch houses employ about two hundred traveling men in the United States. The office force of the Plow Company and the branch houses consists of in the neighborhood of three hundred, and about 1,200 men are constantly employed in the shop.

In addition to the goods manufactured by the Moline Plow Company, the branch houses are jobbers of vehicles, wagons, grain drills, seeders, hay tools, feed mills and other classes of agricultural implements. A very large portion of the vehicles and wagons are manufactured by the Mandt Wagon Company at Stoughton, Wisconsin, and the Henney Buggy Company, of Freeport, Illinois, both institutions are branch factories of the Moline Plow Company, they having been merged with that institution September 24, 1906. Previous to the merger they were owned principally and controlled by Moline Plow Company stockholders. Moline Plow Company stock was issued holders in the Henney and Mandt factories in lieu of stock in those concerns, and for this purpose the capital stock of the Plow Company was increased from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000. This increase represented the combined capitalization of the branch factories.

The wagon factory employs about four hundred men; the buggy factory about three hundred, and both are kept busy producing high grade goods which find a ready market through the branch house of the Moline Plow Company.

Mr. George Stephens who was elected president in 1892, departed this life on the 12th day of July, 1902, full of years and honor, a man respected and loved by all who knew him. He died in his eighty-third year

and was succeeded as the president of the company by his son, Mr. George Arthur Stephens, who has proven a worthy successor to his father. Mr. F. G. Allen was at the same time advanced to the office of vice-president; Mr. C. R. Stephens, another son of Mr. George Stephens, is secretary and superintendent; C. A. Banister is treasurer.

The company's business at the present time is the largest in its history, and is steadily growing, with every indication of continuing to do so for years to come.

The business policy, including the branch house system adopted by the co-managers, Mr. Stephens and Mr. F. G. Allen in 1892, has proven successful in every respect and indicates that the judgment of Mr. George Stephens in placing the business in the hands of these men was good. Perhaps he builded better even than he knew.

#### MOLINE WAGON COMPANY.

The Moline Wagon Company is indisputably the largest firm in the world devoted exclusively to the making of wagons. From a nucleus which embodied but a repair and wagon shop which was capable of producing but one hundred wagons annually, this company, under the masterly hand and prolific judgment of its legitimate founder, Mr. Morris Rosenfield, succeeded with a rapidity unheard of, and forged to the front rank of industrial enterprises not only in Moline, but in the United States.

In the mere shack in the eastern end of Moline, where James First trudged over the forge and anvil for fifteen years for a mere living, the Moline Wagon Company was inspired and given life by Morris Rosenfield. Mr. First had opened the shop in 1854. Mr. Rosenfield, in the year of 1869, perceived the vast territory in which wagons were a crying need, and the golden opportunities offered by the energetic, hustling and rapidly settling west.

In that year, he formed a partnership under the name of Benser, Rosenfield and Company. Charles A. Benser having been received into the company. The newly formed company at once erected a two-story brick building on the present site of the now world-famed manufactory, and employed fifty men from the start. In 1871 prudence suggested an enlargement of the buildings, and an increase in the working capital, and a stock company was formed and incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, and was named the Moline Wagon Company. Mr. Rosenfield was selected president and manager of the new corporation, an office he held up to the date of his death.

Immediately after the Company's new formation, new buildings were erected, more wagons were built, and its trade extended to every portion of the United States. The high standard of merit of its product which had been previously painstakingly observed, was faithfully and zealously maintained until the name of the Moline Wagon Company became accepted as the synonym of good material, scientific perfection and superior workmanship.

Branch houses were established in every part of the Union, the fame of the Moline light running wagons spread with the rapidity that characterizes all worthy and reliable ventures or products, and the company, notwithstanding the additional spacious buildings it had erected, the vast amount of modern machinery it had installed, or the prodigious increase in its working force and increased capital, soon found it difficult to keep pace with the orders which poured into their office, and which still continue to strain every facility and resource of the great plant.

Aside from the mammoth buildings, a lumber yard, everywhere dotted with great dry sheds, and covering fully ten acres, is maintained in conjunction with the factory. The company has branch headquarters from the farthest point east to the farthest point

west; they meet the keenest competition of wagonmakers everywhere, and their farm, truck and spring wagons, known respectively as "The Moline," and "The New Moline" light running wagons, are celebrated in every civilized clime.

The present officers of the company are: Walter A. Rosenfield, president; Morris Geisner, secretary and treasurer. That these gentlemen are dully qualified to manage the gigantic business is best illustrated by the continued prosperity the company is enjoying, the increased business which is theirs, and by the rapidity with which the enlargement of the company's facilities becomes imperative. The Moline Wagon Company is now capitalized at \$600,000, and its average output is 30,000 complete wagons per annum. Its working force has been augmented until now it numbers approximately four hundred workmen, among them the most skilled mechanics in their particular line to be found anywhere. The ground occupied by the buildings covers over five acres, the buildings are of brick, six stories high, four hundred and fifty feet in length, and two squares in width. They are prodigious to impressiveness; they have been constructed with an eye to sanitation and convenience for the men employed, are well heated and lighted, the up-to-date machinery is amply protected, to insure safety to life and limb of operatives, and no friction between employer and employee has ever arose to mar the pacific relations of master and man.

#### THE VELIE CARRIAGE COMPANY.

The Velie Carriage Company plant situated in Moline, Illinois, was established in 1902 by gentlemen of widely known reputations in the middle west and who had been affiliated with manufacturing industries in that city for many years. Foreseeing a future scarcity of land for desirable factory sites, a tract of six and a half acres in extent was purchased, from which a strip four hundred and fifty feet

long and one hundred and twenty feet wide was set aside for building purposes.

A factory building was erected and completed in the Fall of 1902, consisting of three floors and basement, four hundred feet long and eighty feet wide, equipped with the most improved and highest grade machinery, all of which is operated by electrical power.

Special consideration was given by the management in the arrangement of departments, so as to facilitate the manufacture of vehicles, each department complete in itself and with operations systematized to be continuous and progressive and material economically handled. Employment of the most skilled workmen, directed by men of established reputations, insured the manufacture of vehicles that are practical, durable and reliable. The building is heated by steam throughout, thoroughly well lighted, thus enabling the men to work to the best advantage.

In manufacturing, no expense is spared to increase facilities and adopt the best methods for the improvement of the product.

The most liberal patronage of 1903-1904 taxed the capacity of the plant to its utmost, so that an increase was found necessary and a second building was constructed in the Fall of 1904, one half the capacity of the first, two hundred and eight feet long and eighty feet wide, three stories and basement, which with minor extensions to the original plant, increased the capacity from forty to seventy-five finished vehicles a day.

The very largely increased business of the following years, has necessitated the occupation of more factory space and the third building, abutting the second and proportioned to counterpart the original building has been built, thereby making two factory buildings four hundred feet long and eighty feet wide, with unusually favorable shipping facilities, being located on the trunk lines of three different railroads.

Their limited floor space in 1903 of 128,000 square feet was increased to 199,000 square

feet in 1904, and lately increased, in 1906, to 261,000 square feet and the output of 7,200 jobs shipped the first year has increased to an annual output of 20,000 vehicles, with a factory capacity of one hundred finished vehicles a day.

Proportionate with this increase of business, the employment of men has grown from one hundred the first year to three hundred and fifty, the greater proportion being heads of families, located permanently in Moline and Rock Island, and the owners of homesteads and as they are employed steadily ten hours a day throughout the entire year, the services of the most skilled workmen are assured.

#### MUTUAL WHEEL COMPANY.

The Mutual Wheel Company, Moline, Illinois, was organized in 1891 and commenced operations on the present site about the first of January, 1892. The original capital invested by the stockholders was about \$40,000, and about fifty men were at first employed. Mr. D. M. Sechler, founder of the D. M. Sechler Carriage Company, was the first president of this company, and Morris Rosenfield was the first vice-president. The business of the company has increased very rapidly until at the present time the factory is one of the largest in the United States in this line.

The present capital stock of the company is \$300,000 and two hundred and fifty skilled mechanics are employed throughout the year. The annual output is more than 100,000 sets of wheels for carriages, wagons, buggies, etc. The factory has always found a ready sale for all of its products and the Mutual wheels are well known throughout the west. A large proportion of the wheels manufactured go to the large carriage manufacturers at home and in this vicinity.

Besides the factory here the company has a number of branch stock plants in the timber districts of the south and a large force of timber buyers are constantly employed looking



atter good hickory timber out of which to make spokes and felloes for the wheels. The present officers of the company are as follows: J. L. Robinson, president, Freeport, Illinois; J. C. Moon, vice-president, St. Louis, Missouri; George McMaster, secretary and treasurer, Moline, Illinois.

#### THE WRIGHT CARRIAGE BODY CO.

The Wright Carriage Body Company was organized in 1902 with a capital of \$50,000; securing its charter in November, 1902, as a stock company, its first officers being T. M. Sechler, president; C. W. Wright, vice-president and manager; E. H. Wilson, secretary and treasurer. Its first board of directors were T. M. Sechler, W. L. Velie, H. C. First, C. W. Wright, Fred Peters, F. H. Wilson of Moline, and C. H. Dooley of Rock Island.

A two-story factory building, one hundred and fifty by sixty feet with sixty by sixty-five feet wing for engine, boiler and dry house, was erected and actual manufacturing of carriage and buggy bodies and seats began in March, 1903.

In October, 1904, Mr. Wright withdrew from active connection with the company and E. H. Wilson, who up to this time had been in charge of the office and the financial affairs of the company, assumed the management.

Mr. Wilson at once reorganized the working forces and doubled the capacity of the plant, creating an output of 30,000 complete jobs per year.

At the annual meeting of stockholders held September 5, 1906, it was voted to double the capital stock, making it \$100,000; which was at once taken up almost wholly by former stockholders and additional buildings were constructed which allowed the company to again double its capacity.

This company has already made a reputation for good work and is making fast strides toward being one of Moline's leading manufacturing plants.

#### MOLINE FURNITURE WORKS.

The Moline Furniture Works was incorporated in 1898 with a capital stock of \$25,000. Their principal manufacture is wood mantels, office and store fixtures, and special furniture to order. Officers of the company are: George W. Johnson, president and treasurer; F. A. Landee, vice-president; F. A. Johnson, secretary. In 1907 the capital stock was increased to \$100,000. Since starting in 1898 they have yearly experienced a very flattering increase in their business.

#### DEERE & COMPANY.

Our activities as a nation are industrial, not military.

American history can furnish no subject more inspiring than the achievements of men whose life stories are told in the growth of the industries which they alone created, especially when those industries have developed into national or international importance, as a result of constructive policies.

Military achievement is a fruitful source of patriotic inspiration, but should be drawn upon with caution. It is fitting that oncoming generations should draw a portion of their inspirations from the soldiers of industry among whom they must cast their lot.

Men who build up great industries, give employment to working men, and wrest trade from foreign countries, should be as much objects of national admiration as military heroes.

After all, the real civilization of a country is measured by its industries and not by the size or efficiency of its armies.

Progress results from the birth of new desires and the growth of new necessities. Satisfying these new desires and supplying these new necessities call forth men of genius who devise the ways and means and lay the foundations for new industries.

The necessity for a plow that would scour in the black, sticky prairie soil of the west.

enlisted the genius and energy of John Deere, who invented the steel plow, which is now the corner stone of the great manufacturing industry of Deere and Company. Like other men who have achieved success, he had an uphill fight. The story of the pluck and energy displayed and of the obstacles overcome until success was finally realized, constitutes an important chapter in our history.

While John Deere did not begin work on the steel plow until after he was thirty years of age, his previous experience had much to do with his success in this, the greatest effort of his life. He was a natural mechanic and a thoroughly trained blacksmith. He also gained considerable experience that proved helpful in later years, while making hoes and other farm tools.

In 1837 Mr. Deere joined the great stream of hardy settlers then pouring into the west, where opportunities for gaining fortune seemed unlimited. He landed in Grand Detour, Illinois, with his experiences and about seventy-five dollars in cash.

He immediately began to work at his trade, and coming in daily contact with farmers soon learned that their greatest need was a plow that would scour in their soil. His active mind began to work on the problem of producing such a plow, and it was not long before he had a solution. The first steel plow was constructed. It proved a success. A new epoch in agriculture was ushered in and a new and great industry dates from that time.

The expression, "new epoch," is used advisedly. In 1837, when John Deere built his first steel plow, American farms did not produce enough to supply home consumption. The ground was possessed of virgin fertility, but implements were so crude that the vast areas available could not be prepared profitably for seeding. The steel plow did more than any other agency to turn the tide of affairs. Now, thanks to its use, this country is the greatest exporter of food stuffs, our

farms producing a large surplus over and above our daily wants. The handling of this surplus provides employment for an army of working men and is the basic support of most of the great industries for which we are justly famous.

The industry created out of an idea in a private blacksmith shop, has grown hand in hand with agriculture until it has attained the present imposing magnitude of Deere and Company. Its products are known the world over and the name of John Deere ranks with those of Fulton, Watt, Whitney and others of equal importance.

Strange as it may seem, the first difficulty in marketing the new steel plows was to get farmers to try them. Several manufacturers had taken advantage of the demand for a self-polishing plow, to market plows which were said to scour, but in reality would not.

John Deere stencilled his plows "self polisher," and displayed them in front of his shop. Passing farmers would look at them and remark: "self-polisher be d——d, there never will be a plow that will scour in this prairie soil." Mr. Deere on hearing such a remark would ask, "stranger, where do you live?" On being told, he would reply, "take this plow home with you and try it. If it does not scour, I will send and get it without any expense to you. If it does scour, I want you to pay me for it." Even such liberal terms interested only a few at first, the rest preferring not to be bothered with trying an implement which they were sure would not work. Only two plows were put out in 1838, and but ten in 1839. After this, however, the demand increased very rapidly and the great difficulty was to supply it. In fact, at no time has the demand for John Deere plows been completely supplied, which accounts for the steady, healthy growth in their manufacture.

It soon became apparent that Grand Detour, because of its lack of power and transportation facilities, was not a suitable place

for a large plow manufacturing industry. In those days there were no railroads. Water was the only economical source of power and avenue of transportation.

Mr. Deere, together with Mr. Tate, his foreman, traveled about the country looking for a desirable location. They finally decided on Moline, Illinois, and moved there in 1847, being attracted by the excellent water power and transportation facilities afforded by the Mississippi River at that point.

The manufacture of plows was begun immediately, and by the Autumn of 1848, the business had grown to such an extent that it became necessary to form a more efficient organization. Mr. J. M. Gould, who was then a member of the firm of Deere, Tate and Gould, proceeded to organize the office force, and establish a system of accounts. He also took hold of the selling end of the business, and carried out the plans for financing the company on a larger scale than before.

Merchants in those days would not buy plows outright, as they did other articles of merchandise. It was, therefore, necessary to leave the plows at the various agencies to be sold on commission. They were to be paid for at the time of sale, but many farmers gave their notes instead of cash. Dealers would not advance anything on these notes and it was necessary to wait until their maturity in order to get money.

In the face of such conditions, and the lack of local banks, it was often difficult to finance the firm. Money had to be borrowed mostly from individuals. Largely for these reasons, there was no pay-day for the employees. Plows were traded to the merchants of Moline, Rock Island, Davenport, Muscatine and other nearby towns and orders given on them to the workmen for what they wanted. Money was never paid out for wages, unless an employe left or was discharged. In such cases, any wages due were settled for in cash.

It was also difficult to transfer money, because exchange could be purchased only

occasionally. In the summer time money was sent to St. Louis for this purpose by the steamboat clerks, but in winter, even this convenience was cut off.

Another difficulty was to get the plows to the various agencies. It was necessary to ship them by river to distributing points and then haul them by team to the merchants throughout the interior. This was a slow and uncertain process, but the only one available.

These illustrations serve to show the inconveniences that, in those days, handicapped the conduct of a business of more than local consequence. However, each difficulty and discouragement was surmounted. John Deere plows were winning their way and the firm gathered additional strength with every victory over these adverse conditions.

In 1852, both Mr. Tate and Mr. Gould retired from the firm, and Mr. Deere continued the business alone. The demand for his plows steadily increased and the output was increased as fast as possible, but could never be made to equal the demand, a condition which still exists. In 1857 ten thousand plows were manufactured. This was considered an enormous output in those days, and it was, conditions considered.

By 1868 John Deere's business had grown to such proportions that a more complete organization of the manufacturing and selling departments became necessary. Accordingly Deere and Company was incorporated, with John Deere as president, C. H. Deere, his son, as vice-president and general manager, and S. H. Velie as secretary.

Deere and Company's growth has always been steady, sure, and in response to a demand for its products that has remained in advance of its ability to supply. The company has grown from an idea developed in a little country blacksmith shop, through the factory stage, into a great industry with magnificent manufacturing and selling organizations. It is a fitting monument to John

Deere, its founder, and C. H. Deere, whose genius for organization made it the great industry it now is.

Today the floor space of Deere and Company's factory equals the area of a good sized farm and a complete implement is turned out every thirty seconds of the working year. In addition to this, over a million plow shares are made annually to equip John Deere plows already in use. This one item alone exceeds the entire output of many plow factories. Facilities are ample for shipping fifty complete car loads of implements a day. The system of overhead tracks, upon which implements and parts are conveyed from one department to the other, is so perfect that no handling is necessary from the time they leave the paint shop until in front of the car door for shipment.

Great distributing companies have been organized in the principal centers throughout the country, some of these companies being the largest of their kind in the world.

The Deere organizations furnish a livelihood to about twenty thousand people, and cover the civilized world in their operations. Wherever the American citizen goes, he finds that John Deere plows have preceded him.

Agricultural success makes the railroads possible and keeps the wheels of industry and commerce in constant motion. The steel plow made agriculture a success. It emancipated the farmer from bondage to the soil, enabled him to build public schools in which to educate his children and comfortable homes in which to enjoy the comforts of life.

When history finally casts up events and determines what is worth while, the faces of John and C. H. Deere will be seen in the hall of fame.

The industry which the one created and the other developed will be an object to which every true American will point with pride.

### ARGILLO WORKS.

Argillo Works, one of the leading industries of Rock Island County, and located at Carbon Cliff, Illinois, was incorporated in 1865 by William S. Thomas, Adoniram L. Wait and Jeremiah Chamberlin, with a capital stock of \$100,000. Jeremiah Chamberlain was the first president, having been elected at the time the plant was launched, and serving four years. Mr. Chamberlin was succeeded in 1869 by Mylo Lee, who served from that time until 1896.

To these two men can be attributed the success of the plant, as it was they who piloted it through from a mere experiment to a well paying investment. The succeeding presidents up until the present day have also given thoroughly capable service, and under their supervision the plant gradually increased its earning powers until now it is one of the county's most thriving industries.

In 1896 W. T. Ball became president and continued until J. F. Robinson was elected president in 1899. Upon the death of Mr. Robinson, his wife, Mary E. Robinson, became its president in 1903, and still holds that position.

The Argillo Works manufactures clay products, principally fire brick and farm drain tile, which are widely distributed throughout the state, and in fact all parts of the United States.

### TRI-CITY MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE CITIES OF DAVENPORT, ROCK ISLAND AND MOLINE.

The Tri-City Manufacturers' Association was organized in the year 1900, with C. H. Deere of Moline as president, and E. H. Sleight of Moline as secretary.

The general object at that time was the promotion of the interests of the three cities along manufacturing lines. Although started with some enthusiasm, it soon languished and practically ceased to exist until two

years later. When the machinists throughout the country struck for a shorter work-day, the Tri-City Manufacturers' Association awoke to life again, and practically reorganized as a defense association to check the rising tide of trade unionism. The movement here was simultaneous with others throughout the country, the ever increasing and arbitrary demands of labor unions making it necessary for employers to unite in order to offer effective resistance.

The work of this association as indicated above, has been principally of a defensive nature, but it has also been influential in various other ways. Its influence was exerted in behalf of the Interstate Commerce Bill, and in opposition to the so-called Uniform Bill of Lading, and an active campaign was carried on under its auspices for the cause of reciprocity.

The principal membership of this association is in Moline, and while the association as a whole cannot act, yet the Moline members have frequently met for the consideration of matters pertaining to the welfare of their city. The Moline members of this association paid for a new private water main along the river front from the water works west, which forms a very important secondary water supply in case of fire; indeed superior to the Third Avenue main. A recent fire at the Mutual Wheel Works was checked by this new water main only, when the Third Avenue main had collapsed. It seems quite probable that a very disastrous conflagration would have been started had it not been for the new main.

The Moline members of this association purchased a lot and also advanced the money for a new fire station north of the railroad tracks. At their suggestion the city is putting down a new water main on Third Avenue, for which the property owners are being assessed. These improvements, although paid for by the manufacturers or the property owners on Third Avenue, are for the benefit

of the whole city, which is practically dependent upon manufacturing for its prosperity.

The members of the Manufacturers' Association have also contributed liberally to many public objects. I might mention the new bathing house on Eighteenth Street, also the various conventions which come to this city, the Manufacturers' Hotel, the Moline Theatre, etc.

Tri-City manufacturers are liberal givers toward public functions and enterprises. The great victory in obtaining a handsome congressional appropriation for a Government lock was brought about largely through the efforts of the manufacturers, and the establishment of such lock will prove of untold value to the community. A standing committee co-operates with other civic organizations in public benefactions, the reception and entertainment of conventions, and securing desirable and representative assemblages for local entertainment.

Information of general importance is communicated to the membership by a systematic series of bulletins from the secretary's office. From the same source items of general interest are bulletined from the association's affiliated organizations, including such far reaching associations as the National Association of Manufacturers, National Founders Association, National Association of Agricultural Implement and Vehicle Manufacturers, Metal Trades Association, Citizens Industrial Association, National Association of Credit Men, and others.

Along defensive lines mentioned above, our association defended against the machinists' strike in 1900 and the moulders' strike in 1903, successfully in both instances, and this we believe was not only on account of our firm front, but because we were essentially right in our position. The manufacturers conferred with the men and offered a reasonable compromise settlement, but in neither instance would the unions accept less



than their full demands in every particular. This arbitrary stand gave the manufacturers the moral support of the community, and of a large part of the workmen as well.

In conclusion would say that the Tri-City Manufacturers' Association is only one of many institutions which of late years have sprung up all over the country in response to the pressing necessity of maintaining a check against the warlike attitude of trade unionism. The public in general will readily perceive the necessity of these organizations. Employers must look to themselves largely to maintain their own rights, which no one else will do if they neglect it. Whatever the benefit of trades unionism, and without entering into further discussion, it is evident that they have been the cause of prices advancing fully as fast as they have affected wages, that they have sowed discontent and warfare in peaceful communities, and that strikes have caused an immense amount of misery. They have aimed to destroy kindly relations between employer and the individual employee.

The Tri-City Manufacturers' Association stands for the open shop, but it also stands for a high standard of wages. If we should ever lose our influence, or fail to accomplish the results we aim at, it will be because we have neglected to pay high enough wages to an intelligent and manly class of workmen.

HARRY AINSWORTH,

Ex-Secretary.

Moline, Illinois, September 8, 1906.

#### THE MOLINE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

In response to a petition circulated by Messrs. C. F. Dewend and C. Iver Josephson, a meeting was held in the City Hall on September 13, 1898, which was attended by about one hundred of Moline's most prominent business, professional and manufacturing men for the purpose of organizing the above association. Temporary officers and committees were appointed on membership, finance, by-

laws and incorporation, a preamble was drawn up, the import of which was that the association was organized to subserve and advance all material and legitimate interests of Moline, East Moline and vicinity, and our welfare generally.

The membership at present is about one hundred. The association meets the second Tuesday of each month, the board of directors the Tuesday previous, the annual meetings are held the second Tuesday in October. The monthly meetings were held in various places, first in the City Hall, then in McKinnie Hall, Moline Club Hall, Elks Club, and Assembly Room of the Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company. The board of directors hold their meetings in the secretary's office. The association is a member of the Upper Mississippi River Improvement Association, as well as a member of the National Board of Trade. It has always been represented by a large delegation at the annual meetings of both these organizations wherever held. It has shown what can be accomplished by a united effort, by holding the Street Fair of 1899, which attracted more people to the city than any other event held heretofore, also celebrating the same year, the Fourth of July, with a public demonstration the like of which was never known in this part of the country. It installed artisan water mains to the public fountain on Market Square, it placed other fountains in the city, it installed electric street decorations as well as flag decorations on all festive or conventional occasions. The association financially assists for the expense of all State conventions held in the city, and is instrumental in getting these various conventions to come here. It is continually looking after the introduction of new industrial institutions to settle here, and has been instrumental in obtaining various new factories. Through its persistent efforts Moline received an appropriation from the General Government of \$386,000 for a steamboat lock and harbor. The lock has

been completed and was accepted by the National Government engineers on the 7th instant of this month (January, 1907), the deepening of the channel harbor and constructing a landing, and the beautifying of River Side Park with trees, shrubbery, drives and walks, will all be completed this year, giving Moline a beautiful park, in the center of the city, on our river front.

During the last year it has undertaken and accomplished the building of a modern theatre at a cost of \$75,000, of which sum the association paid \$10,000, raised through a seat sale and donations. The theatre was built entirely upon plans and under the surveillance of the association. There is no more modern building of its kind, and of its size, outside of Chicago.

The unity of thought and action on the part of the members and the directors, with the financial assistance generously bestowed by our manufacturers and business men, has made it possible, and will in the future make it possible, to carry on the great work for which we are striving, namely, a Greater Moline.

#### MOLINE RETAIL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

This association, like the Retail Merchants' Association of Rock Island, affiliates with both the National and State organizations. Like other bodies of its kind its objects are to advance and protect the business interests of its members, to abate trade abuses and illegitimate practices, to secure beneficial legislation, and in various ways produce a feeling of friendliness and co-operation between the varied business interests and the public as a whole.

This association was instituted April 1, 1903. It is now incorporated.

The first workers in the movement looking to the perfection of this organization were: B. H. Quick, S. S. Hoffman, C. F. Dewend, Martin Carlson, Charles G. Hogberg, C. O.

Lovejoy and William Carstens, who, with the help of the above gentlemen, did the first soliciting for membership. Such was their success that inside of ten days one hundred and fifteen business men had signed the charter list.

The first regular meeting place was at 422 Sixteenth Street, where permanent headquarters are now located.

The success of the Retail Merchants Association has been phenomenal. They have saved thousands of dollars, not alone to the members, but to the public, by protecting the honest people from the dishonest. Further than this twenty per cent the reduction of freight rates in the State of Illinois, which amounts to about \$20,000,000 to the people of the State, was brought about mainly by the united efforts of the local and state associations.

#### MOLINE CLUB.

Organized December 9, 1895, its object being for the advancement of social intercourse among its members and to promote the civic, business and industrial interests of the City of Moline. The membership consists of three classes: Resident, non-resident and honorary. The resident membership being limited to three hundred members. Any male eighteen years of age or over, living within the City of Moline, shall be eligible to resident membership. Any male adult whose residence is without the limits of Moline shall be eligible to non-resident membership. Any person of public distinction shall be eligible to honorary membership. The non-resident and honorary members shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club, except of those voting or holding office. The annual meetings of the Club are held on the second Tuesday in May of each year, at 9 P. M. The officers of the Club are president, first and second vice-presidents, a secretary and treasurer. The various committees are the finance, membership, house and grounds, entertainment,

press, auditing, and civic improvement committee to further the civic, business and industrial interests of the City of Moline. The ladies and minors of every member's family are entitled to the privileges of the Club. No liquor of any kind shall be allowed in the club house, or on its premises, nor shall gambling be permitted. The first officers were: C. H. Deere, president; C. A. Barnard, vice-president; E. H. Sleight, secretary; C. F. Hemenway, treasurer.

#### WOMAN'S CLUB OF MOLINE.

The Woman's Club of Moline was founded May 23, 1903, by Mrs. Frank Gates Allen, of Moline, who called the first meeting, secured the place and speakers and presented a plan of organization which was adopted. The Club's membership grew rapidly, outgrowing the capacity of successive meeting places, until it has five hundred and twenty-five members and holds its regular meetings in one of the largest church buildings in Moline—the First Congregational.

The object of the Club, as stated by its constitution, "shall be to foster the interest of its members in literary, scientific, musical, historical, and other topics of vital importance; to promote culture and cordial personal relations among women, and to contribute to the welfare of the community." Any woman living in Moline or vicinity is eligible to membership in the Club. It has, consequently, many members who live in Rock Island, Davenport or the smaller towns nearby. Monthly meetings are held from October to May inclusive. At these, reports of the departmental work are given, a program, consisting of music and the discussion of some live subject by an authority upon it, is presented and a short social hour follows.

The Club has several departments: The music department, formed by the absorption of the Moline Beethoven Club, provides music for each regular meeting and one or two recitals each season. The philanthropic

department, formed by the absorption of the Moline Associated Charities, supports the Moline police matron, and City missionary, and provides for most of the relief work done for the poor of the city.

The civics department encourages the cleaning and beautifying of lots, streets and alleys, the opening of parks, the abatement of nuisances, and unsanitary conditions and the establishment of public play grounds. The department of pure food and domestic economy aims to secure the intelligent enforcement of the pure food laws.

The art and literature department conducts a study class which meets fortnightly.

The legislative department keeps the Club in touch with legislation of interest to its members, especially that which effects women and children.

#### THE MOLINE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Moline Young Men's Christian Association was organized February 10, 1885. At that time the old rink was secured as temporary quarters and an efficient work carried on for several years. During the years of 1888 and 1889 a building fund was raised and a new structure erected which continued to be the home of the Association until destroyed some years later by fire.

On January 1, 1903, the Association moved into the present quarters, where a steadily growing work has been maintained in the various departments, and whose spacious, well lighted rooms have become the home of the young men of Moline in a very special way. The Association is not alone his home, but as well his school room, his play ground, and his place of entertainment and Christian culture.

In the night school conducted by the Association are taught all the common branches, such as arithmetic, algebra, penmanship, spelling and grammar, also English for Swedes and Greeks, in both elementary

and advanced courses. Other courses in mechanical and architectural drawing, electricity, telegraphy, bookkeeping, commercial law, and vocal music have been taught in the night school. In connection with the educational department a debating society is conducted, in which young men are trained in the art of public speaking.

A physical department with well equipped gymnasium and expert physical director is a second phase of the work, affording a place for physical development under wholesome Christian influences. This department is participated in by both men and boys with great pleasure and profit. The bath rooms which are used daily by large numbers of men are the finest in the city. Fully 6,000 baths are furnished annually to members. No less than 35,000 visits are made to the rooms each year.

The religious phase of the work is wide in scope, covering a vast field of religious education. Bible classes are conducted, men's meetings with helpful addresses are held on Sunday afternoons and on week days meetings are held in the various shops of the city at the noon hour, where a large number of men listen to addresses and music by the best talent obtainable. There is also a corps of workers, comprising a male quartette and speakers, who visit the various churches and missions in suburban towns to conduct religious services.

During the years of its existence the Moline Young Men's Christian Association has made a place for itself in the city of inestimable value. Its aim has been to produce well rounded men in this and it has succeeded. The product of the Association has gone forth to raise the standards of moral living and to enrich the world.

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## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

## FIRST ENTRIES OF LAND.

Colonel George Davenport and Russell Farnham, on October 19, 1829, entered land section two, seventeen North, two West which was the first land registered in Rock Island County. The south half of this ground including that land east one mile from the old Fair Grounds was sold to Jonah H. Case. The north half of the Davenport-Farnham land formed a part of the possessions of the late Bailey Davenport.

On October 19, 1829, was also entered the north half of section eleven, by William T. Brasher, upon a portion of which land Chippianock Cemetery is situated.

Colonel Davenport entered the southern part of section eleven in 1829-30. On this plat of ground was afterwards laid out the famous "paper town", of Rock Island City. Daniel Webster is said to have held an interest in this (then a paper town), which he sold to Caleb Cushing for \$10,000. The town plat extended from Dingledine's south line, and the south line of Chippianock Cemetery, south to Rock River, and from the Milan road three-quarters of a mile east.

Davenport and Farnham also entered at the same time the fractional section thirty-four, eighteen north, two west, south of the Indian Boundary line. This plat is now laid out in city lots. Adding William Carr, who entered land here in October, 1829, the list is complete as those registered in the year, or prior to that date.

In 1830 Colonel Davenport entered other sections and in 1833 John W. Spencer entered the land on which the old Schindler farm was situated. The year 1835 exceeded all previous years as a land entering year. In 1836 companies were formed and large amounts of land entered for them in the names of individual citizens.

## ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI CANAL.

## SUMMARY.

Illinois and Mississippi Canal, Illinois.—The object of the improvement is to furnish a link in a navigable waterway from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River at the mouth of Rock River, Illinois.

The canal has been located on the Rock Island route, approved by the Secretary of War October 27, 1888, as directed in the act of Congress of August 11, 1888. It proceeds from the Illinois River at its great bend, one and three-quarters miles above the town of Hennepin, Illinois; thence via Bureau Creek Valley and over the summit to Rock River at the mouth of Green River; thence by slack water in Rock River and a canal around the lower rapids of the river at Milan to the Mississippi River at the mouth of Rock River.

The canal is to be at least eighty feet wide at the water surface, seven feet deep, and with locks one hundred and seventy feet long and thirty-five feet width of lock chamber, capable of passing barges carrying six hundred tons (maximum) freight.

A report upon the location, with detailed estimate of cost, of this canal was submitted



June 21, 1890, and is printed in the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1890, page 2586.

The river and harbor act of September 19, 1890, made the first appropriation for the construction of the canal, and directed work to be begun by the construction of one of the locks and dams in Rock River.

In accordance with this act work was begun in July, 1892, near the mouth of Rock River, on the construction of a canal around the lower rapids of the river, and since that date has been prosecuted as rapidly as the appropriation of funds permitted. The survey work in locating the canal on the ground and proceedings for acquiring title to the right of way have been completed, and the canal has been definitely located on the ground throughout its entire extent.

The river and harbor act of March 3, 1905, authorizes the Secretary of War, in his discretion, to construct a fixed dam with movable crest in Rock River, in lieu of the lock and dam at or near Sterling, Illinois, provided for by the approved project, the said dam with movable crest to be built from funds already appropriated or authorized for the construction of the canal and to constitute a part of the project for its construction.

The river and harbor act of June 3, 1896, placed the work under the continuing contract system and limited the average amount of contract liability to be incurred in any one fiscal year to \$400,000. There has been expended on this work to the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, \$7,319,563.39.

The result of this expenditure has been:

First. The acquisition of the right of way for four and one-half miles around the lower rapids of Rock River and the completion of four and one-half miles of canal there, involving the construction of four and one-half miles of earthwork, three locks, one railroad and two highway swing bridges, seven sluiceways and gates, one arch culvert, two dams 1,392 feet long across the arms of Rock River,

three lock-keepers' houses, one small office building, a thorough riprapping of the canal banks (not included in the original estimates), and construction by contract of Moline wagon bridge, at a cost of \$25,000, which was not included in the original estimate.

Second. The acquisition of right of way for the main line and navigable feeder, completion of all railway and highway bridges, locks, culverts, aqueducts; execution of all earthwork and completion of dam and controlling works at head of feeder; erection of fourteen houses and partial completion of twenty-five houses for overseers and lock tenders.

The canal was filled with water and formally opened to navigation October 24, 1907. Operating force has been organized and since January 1, 1908, the work has been maintained under the indefinite appropriation for operating and care of canals and other works of navigation, the completion of construction work progressing at the same time.

The entire work embraced in the original project for the canal, as modified by subsequent projects and plans as the work has progressed, may be summarized as follows:

Surveys and location upon the ground; acquisition of right of way and fencing; construction of—ninety-five and eight-tenths miles of earthwork; sixty-seven highway bridges; one farm bridge; three pontoon bridges; eight railroad bridges; nine aqueducts; fifty-two culverts (increased to sixty-two); thirty-three locks; nine sluiceways and gates; three dams; nineteen houses (increased to thirty-nine); outlet to Rock River; new highway on mile sixteen; improvement of eight and five-tenths miles of Rock River; Moline wagon bridge (not in original estimate).

The work thus far completed may be summarized as follows:

Surveys and location upon the ground; acquisition of right of way and fencing; construction of—ninety-five and eight-tenths

miles of earthwork; sixty-seven highway bridges; one farm bridge; eight railroad bridges; nine aqueducts; sixty-two culverts; thirty-three locks; thirty-four sluice gates; three dams; fourteen houses and part of twenty-five additional; new highway on mile sixteen; Moline wagon bridge; one pontoon bridge; part of dredging in Rock River; emergency gates, mile twenty-three.

The work remaining to be done consists of completing twenty-five houses, dredging in Rock River, and miscellaneous work of revetment, bank protection and finishing.

## PIONEER DAYS ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

BY S. W. MC MASTER.

The first steamboat that landed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, was the Virginia, Captain Crawford, in 1823. She was one hundred and eighteen feet long and twenty-two feet wide. At that early day the conveying of supplies to the forts on the upper Mississippi was about all the traffic there was. During the few years immediately following the arrival of the Virginia there was but one boat a year. The Neville came in 1824; the Putnam in 1825; the Lawrence in 1826; the Fulton in 1827; the Eclipse in 1828, and the Black Rover in 1829. The Red Rover, Captain Thochmorton, made her first appearance in the Galena trade in 1830. The master of this boat built and commanded the Warrior in 1832 and participated in the Black Hawk war at the battle of Bad Ax. He always carried on his boat two four-pounders. His passenger cabin was a keelboat towed alongside. He was a genial man and a great favorite with all the officers at the forts. Captain Thochmorton also built and commanded a number of other boats during his long career as a steamboat officer. The last craft he commanded was a government boat, the Barnard, some time during the seventies.

The steamers Josephine, Captain J. Clark; and the Missouri Fulton, Captain Culver, were in the St. Louis and Galena trade in 1828 and

1829. In 1836 the Missouri Fulton, Captain Orrin Smith; and the Frontier, Captain Smith Harris, came up. The latter craft was built for the Rock River trade. The Palmyra, Captain Cole, also arrived bearing a pleasure party of some thirty ladies and gentlemen, and there was the St. Peter, Captain Thochmorton, with a party of St. Louis ladies, and the Rolla, bringing a delegation of the Sioux Indians on their way back from Washington, where they had made a treaty by which the valley of the St. Croix was opened to the whites.

From 1836 there were steamers passing up and down the river almost daily, taking supplies for the various small towns below Galena and Dubuque. The boats that were in the trade between Galena and Fort Snelling in 1837 were the Palmyra, Dubuque, Gipsy, Pavillion, Emerald, Wyoming, Olive Branch, Ariel, Heroine, Rolla, Burlington, Galena and Irene. The boats during that season were the Dubuque, Rolla, Emerald and Heroine. The steamer Brazil in 1841 was sunk on the Rock Island rapids.

Between the latter date and 1847, a large number of boats were engaged in the trade between St. Louis and Galena. Among them were the Ione, Captain LeRoy Dodge; St. Croix, Captain Hiram Bersie; War Eagle, Captain Smith Harris; Falcon, Captain L. Morehouse; Rock River, Count A. Harasky; Monona, Captain E. H. Glevin; and Iowa, Captain D. B. Morehouse. In 1847 the Argo, Captain William Lodewick, started as a regular packet between Galena and Fort Snelling. Captain Lodewick was an uncle of Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Boyle, of Rock Island. In 1848 he was in command of the Dr. Franklin with Captain Russell Blakely, my oldtime friend, as clerk. The Franklin was the first boat belonging to the Galena and Minnesota Packet Company. Most of the stockholders in this company were Galenans. This steamer, the Franklin, was the nucleus from which grew the fleet of the Galena and St. Paul

Packet Company, the first organized steamboat company on the upper Mississippi, which in after years became one of the most powerful companies on the great river, bringing out from year to year as the trade increased, many new and finely built boats.

In 1854, when the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad reached the river here a big excursion was run, bringing some 1,200 eastern men, including many prominent statesmen and newspaper men, and the Minnesota Packet Company met them at the Rock Island wharf with the steamers *Golden Era*, Captain Hiram Bercie; *G. W. Sparhawk*, Captain L. Morehouse; *War Eagle*, Captain Harris, and the *Galena*, Captain D. B. Morehouse. On these magnificent packets about 1,000 of the excursionists took a free ride to St. Paul. During the trip the stage of water was good and at times the boats would be lashed together in pairs so that the passengers could pass from one to the other. Taken all together this affair was most far-reaching in its effect in bringing to the notice of prominent eastern men the vast possibilities of the north. This magnificent excursion has never been equalled in size and results in the history of the river. A vast tide of emigration soon afterward began setting westward.

The *Galena* and Minnesota Packet Company was at the summit of its career from 1856 to 1860. It had a fine and large fleet of boats running at that time. Two daily lines of packets were run from *Galena*, a daily from St. Louis to St. Paul, a daily to Rock Island and a daily between the upper and lower rapids.

In 1857 Captain Davidson organized another line of steamers to run on the upper river. This line ultimately was to swallow up and destroy in the end all others except the *Diamond Jo* Company, which still exists. This was known as the *White Collar* line. During this year the St. Louis and St. Paul steamboat men decided to inaugurate a daily service by running in rotation with the

*Carada*, Captain James Ward; *W. L. Ewing*, Captain M. Green; *Denmark*, Captain Dick Gray; *Metropolitan*, Captain T. B. Rhodes; *Pembona*, Captain Thomas H. Griffith; *Northerner*, Captain P. Alford, and *Lucy May*, Captain J. B. Rhodes. Along in the early sixties these different boats were united under the ownership of a stock company, and the *Henry Clay*, Captain Charles Stephenson, was taken in. There were then more boats on the Mississippi River plying to and from St. Paul than ever before or since, some ninety-five in all. I might give the names but that would require too much space.

From 1856 to 1860 there was a very large amount of excursion travel coming from New Orleans and St. Louis to the cool shady retreats found around the lakes near St. Paul, many of the excursionists staying two or three months. Often the boats would have their upper guards piled full of trunks. At night after eleven o'clock the cabin floors would be filled with cots. From eight to ten the colored cabin boys would get out their violins and dancing would be indulged in. With good boats, attentive and obliging officers and good table fare the time passed pleasantly. No hurry, no care, beautiful scenery all the way, particularly along the banks of the upper river. How many happy hours I have passed in this way on the many trips I have taken since I first came west.

The *Keokuk* and *McClure* line which plied between St. Louis and Keokuk, united with the *Northern* line. After Davidson had wrecked the lines on the upper river and after the death of John McClure this line was left to be sold. Davidson bought it, thus acquiring control of the old reliable *Northern* line and of all the steamboat interests on the river. The holders of a majority of the stock in the *Northern* line applied for a receiver to manage the business. Davidson was compelled to fight for his property. This took so long that the cost of the litigation left him with little of value. The business was ruined

his health was broken, the commerce of the North line was destroyed and the remnants of what had been a grand industry in building up the commerce of the northwest was no more.

From 1846 to 1863 I was actively engaged in business in Galena. Later I bought wheat, flour and corn along the river in large amounts and shipped to St. Louis. In connection with my business I necessarily traveled often on the river between St. Louis and St. Paul, and became well acquainted with many of the prominent captains and clerks and other officers of the boats. I was a stockholder in the Northern line, also a director and stockholder in the Galena and Minnesota Packet Company.

Among the river men I knew I desire to especially mention Captain Russell Blakeley, of Galena and St. Paul, and say that I am indebted to him for much of the information presented, which has been gleaned from a pamphlet he read before the Minnesota Historical society in 1898. He was a prominent citizen of St. Paul for many years. Two years ago he died. The title of the pamphlet he wrote is "The History of the Discovery of the Mississippi River and the Advent of Commerce in Minnesota."

Before closing this sketch of steamboating on the upper river in the olden times I would mention a few of the men I knew best. Among them were Captain Orrin Smith of the Brazil and Nomonee, Captain S. D. Harris of the War Eagle and Gray Eagle, Captain Hiram Bersie of the St. Croix, Golden Era and Northern Light, Captain W. H. Gabbart of the Sucker State, Captain James Ward of the Metropolitan, and Captains Thomas Buford, T. B. Rhodes and John W. Rhodes. Among the clerks was Daniel V. Dawley, who filled this position for over fifty years (I knew him first in 1838 as clerk on an Ohio River boat, the W. W. Wells, and afterward in that position on the Sucker State); George R. Melville, Robert Melville and George C. Brish.

But few of these old-time friends are left. I know of only Captains Bennett of Moline, Captain Thomas Buford of Rock Island, Captain W. H. Gabbart of Davenport, and Captain John Rhodes of Savanna.

When I look back over the sixty-nine years I have passed on the upper Mississippi and think of the marvelous changes that have taken place in the great northwestern country, I feel that, if years were reckoned by the changes that have occurred during this time, I might well be two centuries of age.

BY J. W. LAWHEAD.

The names of a few of the many magnificent steamers that were frequent callers at our levee in the days before the civil war, when steamboat business was at its zenith, are still fresh in my mind. Many of our citizens will remember such boats as the Time and Tide, Brazil, Lady Franklin, Montauk, Bonacord, Anthony Wayne, Danube, Greek Slave, Julia Dean, Lamertine, Golden Era, Itaska, Grey Eagle, Effie Afton, Excelsior, James McKee, and Lusern. All these boats were large, finely equipped side-wheelers, for a stern-wheeler in those times was seldom seen. Boats were constructed in a manner to best take care of the business demands. Each boat was prepared to carry a large amount of freight, and so arranged also as to accommodate comfortably two hundred and three hundred passengers. No hotel in any city surpassed their bill of fare. Their tables were furnished with the best that the markets could afford, and served in a manner unexcelled.

Steamboating fifty years ago was attended with many difficulties, chief among which was the lower rapids. There it was that through the major part of the boating season all freight and passengers had to be transferred over and around the portage. Each boat's cargo had to be removed and placed on great litters or flat boats, each one covering about one-half an acre of river, so to speak. These were towed over the rapids.

and then the goods were replaced aboard the boat on which they belonged. Then the steamer would proceed on her journey. These were vexatious delays and attended by great expense and much labor.

The pilots on the river in those days were men who had the chart of the river and the course of the channel and the numerous difficult crossings, the shoals, hidden rocks and other obstructions which lay in their path, in their heads. It required years of constant practice and diligent study and close observation. To attain the vast and important knowledge they must know the path on the darkest and stormiest night as well as in the light of day.

How different the condition of today. The lower rapids have been shot out—with a great stone wall that forms the outer bank of a ship canal, through which steamers pass with their cargo undisturbed. The reefs, sandbars, snags and other obstructions have been removed, the channel deepened and widened where required, stone piers and buoys in the river, provided to mark the course of the channel by day, with lights in vast numbers to show the way by night. The government has expended vast sums of money in the past years to improve navigation and encourage commerce on our western rivers.

#### VALENT TO RIVER NAVIGATION.

The office of the Government engineer in control of the Government improvement along the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Missouri River to St. Paul, together with a number of adjacent natural artificial waterways, is located in Rock Island. Through its annual appropriations, about \$800,000 are spent in the interests of improved navigation in the district indicated.

The first Government engineer's office established for the improvement of the upper river was located in Davenport, in 1866, and was in charge of General James H. Wilson. The office was originally intended to control

only the improvement of the Rock Island rapids. General Wilson was transferred to Keokuk, and the work of building the canal around the rapids there was placed in his charge. The Davenport office was left under Major C. J. Allen, who, about two years after it was originally established, removed it to Rock Island, quarters being taken in the Skinner Block over the People's National bank.

In 1870 Colonel John Macomb was placed at the head of the offices, and under him they were removed to the building at the northeast corner of Second Avenue and Nineteenth Street. Colonel F. V. Farquhar took charge in 1877, and under his direction, the year following, the general survey of the river made from the mouth of the Missouri to St. Paul was begun, from which a general line of improvement for the whole distance was later mapped out.

Colonel A. Mackenzie came on in 1879 and the office was under his management for a period of fifteen years. In 1891 quarters were taken on the fourth floor of the new Mitchell and Lynde Building. Major Mackenzie continued in charge until his promotion to assistant chief engineer at Washington. Colonel W. R. King, his successor, died after a year's residence in the city, and Major C. McD. Townsend took charge in May, 1898. The present quarters, on the second and third floors of the federal building, at the corner of Second Avenue and Sixteenth Street, were taken possession of January 9, 1896.

Colonel James L. Lusk assumed charge in April, 1903, and was succeeded by Colonel Charles S. Riche in April, 1905, and who is still in general charge. Colonel Charles W. Durham, first assistant engineer since 1871; James D. DuShane, assistant engineer; W. A. Thompson, assistant engineer; Samuel Edwards, assistant engineer; James McElherne, assistant engineer; Montgomery Meigs, assistant engineer; A. L. Richards, assistant engineer; C. P. Comegys, auditor.



The working plants consist of two boats, dredges, snag boats, barges, dump boats, quarter boats, office boats, employing over one thousand men during the working season.

### ILLINOIS WESTERN HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

WATERTOWN, ILLINOIS.

The Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane was established by an act of the Legislature approved May 22, 1895, by which act the usual board of three trustees was created and \$100,000 appropriated for the construction, furnishing and maintenance.

After considering various propositions, the trustees finally selected a site near the village of Watertown, in Rock Island County, on an elevation about a quarter of a mile from the Mississippi River and five miles above Moline.

The corner stone was laid September 5, 1896, Governor Altgeld delivering the dedicatory address. Owing to the unfavorable weather, the insolvency of the contractors, and an inadequate appropriation, the work proceeded slowly and when, on March 18, 1897, the new trustees were appointed, they found the buildings incomplete. With additional appropriations granted by the Legislature, they were enabled to resume operations and on May 16, 1898, the front wards were ready for occupancy and three hundred and thirty-six patients were received from the Jacksonville Hospital. In the Spring of 1899 other wards were completed and additional patients received from Jacksonville, Elgin and Dunning. Since that time there has been constructed the Annex, male and female infirmaries, parole ward, tubercular cottages, a chapel, a large amusement hall, carpenter shop, male and female dormitories for employes and dormitory on the farm for patients. A fair ground of twelve acres has been enclosed and the necessary buildings erected to carry on an annual fair. A pathological and hydratic building and industrial hall are

now in process of construction. The population of the hospital is now 1,500.

The hospital grounds consist of five hundred and sixty acres, one hundred acres of which are on the hills immediately surrounding the institution, providing a healthy location free from all malaria and affording a magnificent outlook upon the Mississippi Valley. The farm and garden are in the bottoms to the south and east of the institution, the farm buildings being about a half mile from the institution proper. Access to the hospital is furnished by a switch from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, which follows the south line of the farm, the switch running to the top of the hill.

Fireproof construction has been adopted in all of the large buildings which are constructed of brick or stone.

In their primitive condition, the grounds surrounding the buildings were very irregular and the soil was of such a character that each rain caused considerable damage. These natural difficulties have in a large measure been overcome and the institution is now well provided with concrete walks, macadam roads and considerable has been done towards beautifying the grounds. This has only been accomplished, however, by moving at least 50,000 cubic yards of earth, filling up many deep ravines, and by the exercise of constant vigilance to prevent washing by rain.

Although within easy distance of the Mississippi River, the institution has its own wells from which it draws an abundant supply of pure water. A sewage plant has been constructed into which enters the sewage from the entire institution. In this sewage box all solid matter is destroyed by a natural process and nothing passes out except a stream of clear odorless water which finds its way to the river.

The institution is well equipped and could carry on its existence in a large measure independent of the outside world, having its own electric light and steam plant, in addition

to the water supply and sewage system, its own carpenter shop, machine shop, store building, laundry and refrigerating plant, printing office, tin shop and garment factory. Electricity is used entirely for light and power and the buildings are heated with the exhaust steam.

The site, valued at \$40,000, was paid for by the citizens of Rock Island County, one-half in subscriptions and one-half by the sale of County bonds. Though somewhat inaccessible, the fact that the institution has never had a case of malarial or typhoid fever, more than compensates.

The board of trustees are F. W. Gould, president, Moline, Illinois; Allan M. Clement, Chicago, Illinois; and William Trembor, Freeport, Illinois. Doctor W. E. Taylor, of Monmouth, was elected superintendent in January, 1897, and has continued in charge of the institution since that time.

#### ROCK ISLAND COUNTY INFIRMARY AND POOR HOUSE.

In the early days the county poor were boarded out in various places, but the county in about 1850 or 1852 purchased the old Rinnah Wells farm, which was located at the turn of the old Camden Mills road, about half a mile north of the wagon bridge, across the Rock River. On this farm was a long two-story frame house, which was made our first County Poor House. November 20, 1860, Rock Island County purchased the farm of James M. Smith, near Coal Valley, for a consideration of \$3,000. Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, who then lived in Coal Valley, built the first poor house on this property.

The first time it was erected it was forty by sixty feet, though since its destruction by fire, December 29, 1902, a new building of brick, fifty-eight by one hundred feet, and four stories high has taken its place. The new structure was completed in 1903 at a cost of \$20,000.

William S. Bailey was appointed steward of the poor farm September, 1860. At that time the infirmary contained but eighteen inmates. Mr. Bailey's salary at that time was four hundred dollars per year. By 1869 his salary had been increased to \$1,000 per year, the number of inmates having vastly increased by that time. Excepting the year 1869 Mr. Bailey was superintendent of the infirmary until 1881, when he was succeeded by Mr. A. Buttman, who served three years. Following Mr. Buttman came Mr. James Robertson, who served two years, then Mr. W. H. H. Dow, who served eleven years. December 15, 1897, Mr. John C. Swank was appointed superintendent, and he has since officiated in that capacity.

#### CHURCHES.

##### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first class of which there is any record, and which became the nucleus of the church, was organized December 6, 1836. At an earlier date Rock Island, or as then known, Stephenson, was recognized as within the bounds of the Illinois Conference, which at that time covered the entire state. Services were occasionally held at an earlier date than above mentioned, Peter Cartwright being presiding elder of a large territory. This noted pioneer preacher was a power in early Methodism. His autobiography is of thrilling interest. The names of those forming the first class are as follows: Michael Hartzell, class leader; Jane Brashar, Pera Vandruff, Nancy Trickell, John Tindall, John Spencer, Elizabeth Sanford, Lucy Bardwell, Ann Tindall, Nancy Hartzell, Eliza Spencer, John Sanford, Hanna Pendleton, John Tuttle, Mary Butler, Esther Morris, Abigail Curtis, Mary McLaughlin, John Metzgar, Elizabeth Vandruff, Amos Moore, Leah Brashar, William T. Brashar, Catherine Vandruff, Nancy Wells, Morgan Ferguson and Thomas Brittingham.



ILLINOIS WESTERN HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE



The only surviving member at the present time is Nancy Hartzell, widow of the late Michael Hartzell, and mother of Joseph Hartzell, bishop of Africa, who for a number of years has been accomplishing a wonderful work on that continent.

During the formative period of the church it had no place of worship of its own. In its beginning the society met at the home of J. W. Spencer. This was a log house that stood near Seventh Avenue and Nineteenth Street. There Methodist preachers always found a cordial welcome. Without disparagement to others it may safely be said that Mr. and Mrs. Spencer stood sponsors for the church; a relation that they worthily maintained during the remaining period of their lives. About the year 1836 a brick school house was erected in Union Square, now known as Spencer Square, and Methodist services were held in it. In 1843 preparations were begun for the building of a church to occupy the northwest corner of the same Square; a site set apart by the then proprietors for that purpose. The church was finished in the year 1844, under the pastorate of Reverend Isaac Searles. This was a brick building, without ornamentation, built at a cost of about \$4,000. It was dedicated in December of the year of its completion. It remained the home of the church for eleven years, until the erection of a much more commodious and imposing structure, on the site of the present church. The conference of 1843 made Rock Island a station, and Reverend Andrew Coleman was appointed pastor. During the pastorate of Reverend G. L. S. Stuff, 1850-1851, the first parsonage was built; a brick building still occupied as a residence, on Nineteenth Street just north of Fifth Avenue. This house when built was in a field belonging to Mr. Spencer. The second church, as above referred to, was undertaken during the pastorate of Reverend William Tasker, and finished in 1855, Reverend S. G. J. Worthington being pastor.

The first conference at Rock Island was held in this church the same year, Bishop Janes presiding. The dedication did not take place until April 20, 1856, when its entire indebtedness was provided for.

On the evening of December 5, 1855, four months before the dedication, a supper was served in the basement of the church, by the ladies, at one dollar per plate, and six hundred and fifty dollars was realized. It was spoken of as the largest festival ever held in the city. The ferry boat ran free and people came from Davenport, Moline and other adjacent towns, while the good Methodists kept open house for all.

A new parsonage was built adjoining the new church in 1856. The Holbrook bell, which still faithfully calls to the several services of the church, was purchased in 1869, at a cost of \$1,200. Reverend Richard Haney was pastor. In 1870-71, under Reverend J. H. Rhea, the church was thoroughly repaired, an alcove built in the rear of the pulpit for the occupancy of a new pipe organ, the whole expense being about \$8,500, which amount was fully met at the time of reopening, on which occasion Doctor E. O. Haven, afterwards bishop, preached.

The Central Illinois Conference convened, for the second time at Rock Island, in 1864, Bishop Scott presided. At this time the war of the rebellion was being fought to a finish; the second election of Abraham Lincoln was pending. It can truthfully be stated that of the 2,299 soldiers which went out from this county this church sent her full quota.

Bishops Simpson, Peck and Bowman, at different times, occupied the pulpit of this church, as did Doctor William Butler, who told of his wonderful experiences in Mexico and India.

The third conference held in Rock Island was in 1883, at the close of the pastorate of Reverend J. S. McCord. Bishop Andrews presided. His sermon, preached on Sunday morning at the opera house, was one of



exceeding power and beauty of diction. At this conference Chaplain McCabe was present, delighting all by his beautiful rendering of Christian song. Reverend R. G. Pearce followed Doctor McCord as pastor.

The personnel of the laity of the church is worthy of mention, but space forbids the naming of more than one, who was notably zealous and full of good works, viz: Edward W. Spencer. His birth antedated the organization of the church by two years. He was nurtured in a Christian home and at the altars of the church. He did not disregard the obligations thus imposed upon him. For nearly a third of a century he was Sunday school superintendent and choir leader. He organized and largely maintained by untiring services the young people's and children's meetings, while other services of the church were a special care.

Others who went out from this church and entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church were William B. Frizzell, J. W. Frizzell and William A. Spencer. The last named after an honored career has passed on to the other shore.

The semi-centennial jubilee of the church was held April 2-5 inclusive, 1887, during the pastorate of Reverend G. J. Lucky. It was an occasion of great interest, and spiritual profit to the church. The principal addresses made at that time fortunately are preserved in book form, entitled, *Fifty Years of Methodism in Rock Island*. There is no relation in life outside of the family, so close and tender as that experienced in the church, that which constitutes Christian fellowship.

Reverend G. W. Gue followed Reverend Lucky in the pastorate. Not later than the second year as pastor, he began to whisper in the ear of one here and there that the proper thing to do was to build a new church. It was not a little thing to undertake, and, furthermore, very many seemed quite satisfied to continue to worship in the old sanctuary, so long their spiritual home; as at its

altars many have been born into the kingdom of their Lord and Savior; while from its doors loved ones had been borne to their last resting place. Hallowed associations made it precious. Having put his hand to the work, Reverend Gue was not one to turn back. He was persistent and continually at it, two very important elements in the accomplishment of a purpose. To write the history of this enterprise is more than now can be undertaken. Consummate thought sanctified by prayer and the earnest effort of all the people made possible the accomplishment of the work undertaken. The corner stone of the edifice was laid September 24, 1889; Bishop Ninde, by invitation, was present and made the principal address. Many of the pastors of other churches in the city were present and participated in the service. A year and a month from the laying of the corner stone the church was dedicated, October 26, 1890. The long cherished hope had eventuated in ultimate fruition. The cost of the building was about \$45,000, which amount was provided for previous to the dedication. At the end of four years as pastor Reverend Gue was transferred to Portland, Oregon. He has since, together with his estimable wife, passed to his final reward.

Reverend F. W. Merrell succeeded Reverend Gue as pastor. He served the church faithfully and well for five years, the membership of the church being largely increased during that period. Near the close of his pastorate, at the instance of Captain T. J. Robinson, who made the donation, a new pipe organ was placed in the church. This necessitated quite a change in the auditorium which, together with other improvements, made an expense of about \$7,000.

Reverend C. O. McCulloch succeeded Reverend Merrell as pastor. His service for a period of five years was fraught with great blessing to the church. During the fourth year of his ministry a new parsonage was built, at a cost of \$4,000. To secure that

amount, besides nearly as much more of indebtedness before the work was undertaken, required strenuous effort. Reverend McCulloch, however, proved equal to the task. At the end of his fifth year he was appointed to Macomb.

Reverend R. B. Williams was the successor of Doctor McCulloch. An event of no little interest occurred during his fifth year, being the occasion of the meeting of the board of bishops, lasting for the most part of a week. Also the same year the church was beautifully frescoed.

The conference that met for the fourth time in Rock Island, September 11-18, 1907, through its presiding bishop, Earl Cranston, gave him the appointment to the Rock Island charge for the seventh consecutive time. This action which was in accord with the request of the local quarterly conference for his return, makes further comment on his pastorate unnecessary.

In 1906 the society purchased the adjoining lot on the west, adding greatly to the sightliness and value of the church property.

As an auxiliary society, the first to be organized was the sewing society, in 1843. In many respects it has proven the better half of the church. It would be monumental if the total of its giving and providing could be shown. Other societies have added greatly to the usefulness of the church. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, organized in 1870; the Home Missionary Society, organized in 1883; and the Epworth League, with other minor organizations, are all working to the one end, the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. The Sunday school, the most important arm of service, must not be overlooked; indeed it is from this source, more largely than any other, that the church recruits its membership. As a distinctively Methodist Sunday school it was organized in 1845. J. W. VanSant being elected superintendent. In the years that have intervened much earnest effort has been put forth.

Sometimes the superintendent and teachers have felt despondent, but the work has gone bravely on and it certainly is beyond human ken to measure the good that has been wrought. Surely God has been gracious to his people.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was organized June 4, 1837, at the house of Lemuel Ludden, which stood just east of the present city limits, near Seehler's carriage works. There were only seven members at that time, viz: Reverend Titus Gillet, Zachariah Cook, Barbara Cook, Lemuel Ludden, Silah Ludden, Phoebe Skinner and Nancy Taylor. They selected Reverend Titus Gillet as pastor. Meetings were held in private houses, and later in the Court House. On June 8, 1844, the "brick school house," then standing on Union Square—now Spencer Square—was purchased for \$45.34 $\frac{1}{4}$ , and fitted as a place of worship. The first real church building was erected in 1848, on the northeast corner of Third Avenue and Fifteenth Street, where the Memorial Christian Church now stands, at a cost of \$3,500. That building was sold, and the present edifice at the southwest corner of the same streets was erected in 1870, at a cost of \$18,000. The parsonage on Fifteenth Street, adjoining the church, was built in 1879, at a cost of \$2,250, and was presented to the church July 31, 1879, by Mrs. Zeruah R. Boyer.

The church has had a long and varied history, having numbered in its membership many of whom the city has been proud, and who have given character and helpfulness to the entire community. The largest membership at any time was September 23, 1906, when the total reached four hundred.

The church is entirely free of debt, and all departments of the work are in active and successful operation. The property is carefully kept by a board of five trustees, and is all in first class condition. The organization

is in a thoroughly prosperous condition, and is doing an aggressive work in the evangelization and Christian teaching of the community.

Harry W. Reed, Doctor of Philosophy, has been pastor of the church since May 1, 1902.

#### ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reverend J. G. Allemann came to Rock Island, Illinois, in 1850, started to organize a church and began building in the Summer of 1851 a stone church, the size being forty by sixty-six feet, and dedicated it St. James Church, it being the first Catholic Church in Rock Island, and Reverend J. G. Allemann being the first pastor.

Reverend J. G. Allemann getting advanced in years, in May, 1856, was succeeded by Reverend John P. Donelan, he remaining as assistant to Reverend John P. Donelan until 1859, when Reverend John P. Donelan was transferred to Rockford, Illinois. Reverend P. J. R. Murphy taking Reverend John P. Donelan's parish here and remained pastor until the Summer of 1861, when he was appointed chaplain of the Fifty-eighth Illinois Regiment. Next came Reverend P. J. McElherne, who succeeded Reverend P. J. R. Murphy.

St. James' congregation grew so large that Reverend P. J. McElherne began the building of the present St. Mary's Church, now occupied by the German Catholics. The building was begun in 1863 and completed in 1865. Reverend P. T. McElherne remained as pastor until 1870, when Reverend J. P. Roles was appointed pastor.

In 1874 Reverend J. P. Roles transferred St. Mary's Church to the German Catholic and bought the Presbyterian Church, corner Fourteenth Street and Second Avenue, and dedicated it St. Joseph's Church. In 1877 Reverend J. P. Roles was transferred to Chicago, Illinois, and Reverend Thomas Mackin was appointed to fill the vacancy of Reverend J. P. Roles.

He remained here until his death, which occurred February 22, 1904, when Reverend J. Roach came here as temporary pastor until October, 1905, when Dean J. J. Quinn, from Chatsworth, Illinois, was appointed the present pastor.

#### TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Some time prior to 1853, Reverend Louderback held Episcopal services in Rock Island; the first recorded vestry meeting being held at Trinity parish November 12, 1853. The organization of Holy Trinity Church was effected about this period. Among the original members were Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Harris, Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Joseph Brackett, Mrs. Goldsmith and Mr. Bailey Davenport.

The first church was finished June 11, 1857, at a cost of \$2,000. The present church was completed January 30, 1870, at an original cost of \$16,000. Reverend L. Goodall was elected first rector October 18, 1854. Trinity Episcopal Church belongs to the Quincy diocese, and is one of the most representative of the Episcopal denomination in this state. Reverend Granville H. Sherwood succeeded Doctor Richard F. Sweet, deceased (see biography elsewhere), who was rector for twenty-seven years.

Trinity Chapel, at the northwest corner of Seventh Street and Fourth Avenue, is a branch of this organization.

#### THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The United Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, Illinois, was organized as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, July 1, 1854, by direction of the second A. R. P. Presbytery of Illinois.

The Reverend Matthew Bigger, together with Ruling Elders John Colins and William Haverfield, met in the seminary building, in the rear of the Memorial Christian Church. The organization was effected by admitting into membership fourteen members from the A. R. P. Church, five members from the

A. P. Church and one on profession of faith, making a total of twenty members. The first elders were Erskin McClellan, James Todd and Hugh Warnock. The congregation received new members every year except 1857 and 1861. The total number received from July 1, 1854, to July 1, 1904, is five hundred and fifty-four. The decrease kept pace with the increase for a number of years.

The services were held in the seminary building and in the Court House for the first six months. In the meantime, by the hard work and self-denial of the acting pastor, Reverend J. R. McCalister and the membership, a plain frame building was built on the site of the present church. This building was removed in 1873 to the corner of Fifth Avenue and Eleventh Street, where it yet stands, doing service for the German Presbyterians first, and now for the Swedish Free Evangelical Church.

The building was entered the first Sabbath of January, 1855. The pulpit furniture was not upholstered, for the Reverend J. R. McCallister's pulpit sofa was a nail keg with a board across it, while the pulpit itself was a dry goods box. The pews were planks laid across nail kegs or boxes. The lights were plain tallow candles. Most of the work on the building was done by the members, under the direction of Mr. James Todd, who is with us today, though his membership has not been with us all these years. By degrees the pews were made, and grained by other members. They are still in use. Their backs were not very high, and were anything but comfortable.

Reverend J. R. McCalister continued as stated supply until July 1, 1860. In the mean time the congregation of Davenport was organized and he supplied both congregations. Fifty-four persons were received into the membership during this pastorate. Among them was A. Conner, who afterward became a minister, but was unable to continue in the ministry long on account of ill health.

Following Mr. McCallister was Reverend W. H. Jefferes, who continued for fifteen months. Then the congregation was without a regular pastor until April, 1863, when Reverend Henry Wallace was called and continued until April, 1871.

During the pastorate of Doctor Wallace there were seventy-five persons received into membership, yet the decrease seemed to be as great as the increase, on account of removals.

After another season without a pastor, Reverend J. A. Reynolds was called for full time in July of 1872. There were but thirty-five members to again take up the work. There had been one hundred and fifty-eight persons received in the eighteen years.

As the church building was not very inviting, there was an effort made to build a new church, so in the Spring of 1873 the present building was planned and begun, but was not entirely finished until 1876, by which time the membership had increased to seventy members. The cost of the new church was \$10,000, of which amount the people paid nearly \$7,000. The balance was from the board of church extension and outside help.

At the close of Doctor Reynold's pastorate the membership was ninety. Immediately following Doctor Reynolds, Reverend J. H. Bown, Doctor of Divinity, took up the work, continuing for three years, after which there was a season without a pastor. In the Summer of 1889 Reverend T. H. McMichael, Doctor of Divinity, then a student, filled the pulpit, and in the Fall of 1889 Reverend H. C. Marshall became stated supply and continued eight years.

Many of the members living in Moline desired either their letter to connect with some church there or that we give them preaching, so a mission was started in 1895, which was afterward formed into a church. May 14, 1898, with twenty-seven members from the Rock Island congregation, and became independent in 1904. At the close of

the Reverend H. C. Marshall's pastorate the membership was about one hundred and thirty, counting the two fields, Moline and Rock Island.

Again we were without a pastor for a year, when in September of 1898 the Reverend D. L. McNary became stated supply, devoting his time to the two congregations for a time, until Moline became independent.

Of the original members, as far as is known, there are but two living. Mr. James Todd and Mrs. Margaret Caughey, of Coal Valley, Illinois, while J. M. Logan and wife of Monmouth, and Mr. J. R. Johnston, of Los Angeles, California, were received in 1855. There may be others we have lost track of.

The following are those who have served as elders, the elders elect, and clerks of the session.

Erskine McClellan, installed July 1, 1854, withdrew December 7, 1865; died January, 1904; James Todd, installed July 1, 1854, withdrew early in sixties; Hugh Warnock, installed July 1, 1854, died May 12, 1898; Thomas McCall, installed August 17, 1864, died early in seventies; Samuel F. Cooke, installed March 20, 1867, withdrew January, 1898, died December 13, 1898; Joseph McKee, Doctor of Medicine, March 18, 1877, withdrew July 9, 1888; James McConnell, installed March 18, 1877, died February 9, 1881; Alex White, installed March, 1877, withdrew April, 1878; Edwin B. McKown, installed November 19, 1890, Samuel H. Montgomery, installed November 19, 1890, withdrew May 14, 1898; James D. Warnock, installed November 19, 1890.

Elders Elect—Charles E. Bryan, James A. Weed, F. P. Lysinger, M. Bollman.

Clerks of Session—Hugh Warnock, no date given, to July 1, 1870; Samuel F. Cooke, July 1, 1870 to November 22, 1890; Samuel H. Montgomery, November 22, 1890 to May 14, 1898; James D. Warnock, May 14, 1898 to the present time.

Upon our roll was the name of one who has been appointed to a position that will bring to him national, yea, world wide fame, if he shall be permitted to carry out the work our government has placed in his hands. The work he has done for various railroads the past twenty-five years bespeaks for him success. I refer to Honorable John F. Wallace, Doctor of Laws, who was with us when the present church was being built. He has been appointed engineer in charge of the Panama canal.

An interesting item we wish to speak of is that the three succeeding generations of the first superintendent, Mr. Hugh Warnock, are represented in our school today in J. D. Warnock, our treasurer; Miss Mildred Warnock, one of our teachers; and Dorothy and Margaret Soule, who are enrolled in our primary department.

Our superintendents since organization have been Hugh Warnock, Reverend J. R. McCallister, Alexander White and E. B. McKown. Excepting about four or five years Mr. Hugh Warnock served as superintendent for nearly thirty-five years.

#### GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IMMANUELS CONGREGATION.

##### RELIGIOUS TENETS.

This body of Lutherans—as indeed the whole Missouri Synod, of which it is a part—takes a firm stand on the basis of the Church of the Reformation; accepting the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as being throughout the inspired Word of God, and the only rule and standard of doctrine and life. It accepts, as a true and correct exhibition of the doctrines of Scripture, the entire confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580. Its central doctrine is: full atonement by Christ, and justification by grace, through faith in Christ Jesus. Holding that two can not walk together except they be



agreed, it rejects altar fellowship, and practices close communion.

Holding that no one can serve two masters, it will not receive into voting membership any person belonging to an oathbound secret society. Holding that the command to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is still binding it has always aimed to establish and maintain parochial schools.

The affairs of the congregation are managed by the members, every male member of the age of twenty-one years, having signed the constitution, is entitled to a vote. Regular sessions are held the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 P. M. One-third of the members constitute a quorum. Majority rules. Absentees waive the privilege of voting.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In the beginning of 1856 a small number of Lutherans, foremost among them Mr. M. Kurz, applied to the Missouri Synod for a faithful Lutheran pastor to attend to their spiritual wants. By request of Synod, Reverend C. A. T. Selle, of Crete, Illinois, investigated matters, and preached the first Lutheran sermon in this section of the country. This was April, 1856. On June 19, the congregation organized with a membership of seven. Reverend F. Ahner being duly called was ordained and installed August 31, by Reverend W. Mueller, of Chicago. Having, as yet, no house of worship, services were held in the old Second Presbyterian Church until the Summer of 1857, when a building site was purchased on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. A frame building on the ground was remodeled for parsonage and school.

#### THE FIRST CHURCH.

During the following Winter and Spring a neat brick church was erected by Mr. George Riess, contractor. It was dedicated on the third Sunday after Easter. Though the membership had by this time increased to seventeen, yet it was quite a venture, as

neither of the members was possessed of earthly goods.

#### THE SECOND CHURCH.

The rapid growth of the congregation soon necessitated a larger building. A more convenient location being desirable, a new site on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twentieth Street was procured at the cost of \$2,500. This was in March, 1865. Plans were submitted by the Messrs. Riess and Schlueter; the contract was awarded to Mr. Hartman. The new church, forty by sixty, with an annex twenty-three by thirty, to serve as dwelling and school, was dedicated in the Fall of 1866, the Reverend C. A. Mennicke officiating.

#### THE THIRD CHURCH.

By the grace of God the congregation experienced a steady growth, and again it became necessary to provide more room. A building committee, consisting of the board of trustees and the Messrs. C. Haensgen, W. Schroether, J. Kirsch, J. Bruchmann, W. Kurth, C. Schillinger, H. Lange, H. Brunswig, C. Schoede, with Teacher E. Selle as secretary, was appointed in November, 1895. Plans were furnished by Messrs. Drack and Kerns. The contract was let to Mr. Nic. Juhl. The following year, the old church was torn down and the new one erected. This magnificent building is a Gothic structure, sixty-two by one hundred and two, surmounted by two spires one hundred and eight and one hundred and sixty-two feet respectively; seating capacity, 1,000; cost, \$25,000. The interior is tastefully decorated with freizes and paintings by Artist H. Voegelé. It was dedicated December 20, 1896, by Reverend C. A. Mennicke, assisted by the Reverend E. D. Mennicke, Reverend A. Brauer, Reverend Professor F. Streckfuss, Reverend Professor L. Wessel.

#### PASTORS.

The first pastor, Reverend F. Ahner, served from August, 1856, until August, 1857, when he accepted a call to Grafton, Wisconsin.

His successor, Reverend C. A. T. Selle, was installed in July, 1858. During his pastorate the congregation formally connected with the Missouri Synod. In 1861 he accepted a call as professor of the Teachers Seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana, later on at Addison, Illinois. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Reverend C. A. Mennicke. This eminent divine, a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, arrived at Rock Island, May 14, 1861. He preached his first sermon on Whit Sunday and was ordained the ninth Sunday after Trinity. He is still serving faithfully, sharing the joys and sorrows of his flock.

In 1880, his health being greatly impaired, he was granted a vacation for a trip to Germany. During his absence Reverend August Haensgen gratuitously served as pastor *pro tem*. Upon his return he entered upon his duties with renewed vigor. In 1886 his son, Reverend A. C. Mennicke, was installed as assistant pastor, serving in this capacity until April, 1892, when he accepted a call to Edford, Henry County, Illinois. In 1893 Professor Reverend Selle, having resigned his professorship, located at Rock Island and served as assistant pastor until March, 1898, when he resigned. Shortly afterward, while on a visit to Chicago, he departed this life; his remains were brought to Rock Island and interred in the Lutheran Cemetery.

Since July 31, 1898, Reverend E. D. Mennicke, second son of Reverend C. A. Mennicke is ably filling the office of assistant pastor.

#### SCHOOLS.

The parish school is as old as the congregation. It was taught by the pastors until the Summer of 1862, when Mr. F. Moeller was installed as teacher. He held this position for forty years, resigning in 1902. He was succeeded by Mr. I. Kaspar.

In 1856 a second teacher was added in the person of Mr. H. Brakesuehler; he was fol-

lowed successively by the Messrs. Trenhold, Kleinstenber and Doescher. The latter resigned in 1873.

In 1866 a third teacher, Mr. A. Schoevelling, was called. In 1869 he was succeeded by Mr. E. Selle, a gifted educator, who is still in active service.

The schools were carried on separately, one on Twentieth Street and one on Thirteenth Street, until 1876, when the Twentieth Street school was moved to Thirteenth Street. In 1885 the Thirteenth Street property was sold, and the schools were transferred back to Twentieth Street, where a commodious school had been built.

In 1900 it was found necessary to branch out. Teacher F. Moeller began teaching on the bluff. Teacher E. Selle retained in charge of the Twentieth Street school and Reverend E. D. Mennicke gathered and taught a class in the lower part of the city. Being successful a school house was built on Eighth Street (1901) and placed in charge of Mr. F. Lustfeld; he was succeeded by Mr. E. Rolf in the Summer of 1906. In 1903 a new school was erected on Thirty-sixth Street, and placed in charge of Mr. I. Kaspar.

#### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

The following anniversaries were celebrated: Twenty-fifth anniversary of the congregation, July 19 and 20, 1881.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastor, Reverend C. A. Mennicke, July 18, 1886.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of Teacher F. Moeller, August 26, 1887.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of Teacher E. Selle, July 19, 1891.

Fortieth anniversary of the pastor, Reverend C. A. Mennicke, July 23, 1891.

Fortieth anniversary of Teacher F. Moeller, September 26, 1902.

Fortieth anniversary of Teacher E. L. Selle, June 25, 1906.

Fiftieth anniversary of the congregation, June 24, 1906.

## CEMETERY.

December 5, 1869, a number of members organized as the German Lutheran Cemetery Association, and purchased a twelve-acre tract on Twenty-fourth Street, South Rock Island. Two acres were resold. Four of the remaining ten acres were immediately plotted out for sale. Subsequently the whole tract was donated to the congregation. Mr. W. F. Schroeder, treasurer; Mr. H. Schoeve, sexton.

## ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION.

- (1) Mutual Aid Society in case of death.
- (2) Mutual Aid Society in case of sickness.
- (3) Ladies Society.
- (4) Mission Society.
- (5) Young Men's Association.
- (6) Young Ladies' Association.
- (7) Mixed Choir.

The Church Council, comprising all the officials, is a board of supervisory character; it consists of:

Pastors—C. A. and E. D. Mennicke.

Teachers—E. L. Selle, Imanuel Kaspar, E. F. Rolf.

Elders—Charles Haensgen, W. F. Schroeder, H. Lange, J. Roehr, W. A. Schroether.

Trustees—N. Juhl, H. Clemann, C. Schoede, E. Hoffmann, W. Scharmann.

Schoolboard—H. W. Horst, chairman; C. Borst, A. Seidlitz, Reverends C. A. and E. D. Mennicke, E. L. Selle, Imanuel Kaspar, secretary; E. F. Rolf.

Janitor—J. Rohwedder.

W. F. Schroeder, chairman of congregation.

E. L. Selle, secretary of congregation.

C. Haensgen, treasurer of congregation.

H. Lange, assistant treasurer congregation.

## THE GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church began a mission among the German people of Rock Island in September of the year 1855, sending Reverend Ullrich von Gunter as first missionary, and after two years work among the Germans

he had succeeded in gathering a membership large enough to build the German Methodist Church on Twentieth Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenue, where also the first parsonage was built. This church was dedicated by Reverend Haas in 1857. By this time the St. Louis German Conference had been organized and this mission was turned over to said German Conference.

After having labored for fifteen years more among the German people the membership had increased to such an extent that the church on Twentieth Street became too small to accommodate the people. That church and parsonage were then sold and a lot with a small house on the corner of Fourteenth Street and Sixth Avenue was bought. The small house with only two rooms had two more rooms added to it and became the parsonage. About five years ago another story was put on this building and it was otherwise remodeled into the present parsonage. On the corner of the lot the present church was built and dedicated in the year 1874.

The membership has never been very large, but much good has been accomplished through this church among the German people of this city. W. C. Schultze is the present pastor.

## THE BROADWAY PRESBYTERIAN.

On October 28, 1874, a little company of Presbyterians met at the home of Mr. D. T. Robinson to consider the advisability of organizing a Presbyterian Church in the eastern part of the city. The conclusion was, "we deem it expedient to organize." A petition to the Presbytery of Rock River, presented at Princeton, Illinois, on April 13, 1875, by a committee consisting of Mr. C. C. More and Doctor J. W. Stewart, was favorably heard, and the Presbytery sent Reverend Josiah Milligan, Reverend J. H. Moore and Elder Snyder to Rock Island to canvass the field and organize the church. The new

church was organized April 29, 1875, and the following officers elected: Elders, D. F. More, C. C. More, H. Lee Mitchell and J. W. Stewart; Deacons, Doctor S. C. Plummer, H. A. Smythe, W. C. Welch and H. E. Woods; Trustees, D. T. Robinson, Alexander Steel, S. J. Keator, C. C. More, W. C. Welch, A. F. Fleming, T. J. Rodman, W. H. Truesdale and Spencer Gregg.

Fifty members were received by letter from the mother Presbyterian church, now known as the Central, and seven united upon profession of faith. These organization services were held in the basement of the Central Church, the auditorium of which was in the hands of workmen repairing the damages wrought by the tornado of September 18, 1875.

Lots were purchased for the new church at the corner of Broadway and Spencer Streets, now Seventh Avenue and Twenty-third Street, and the name Broadway chosen. On May 9, 1875, a Sunday school was organized, with sixty-one scholars, in what was known as Greenbush Chapel, at the corner of Twenty-eighth Street and Ninth Avenue. Doctor C. D. Nott, of the First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, preached on Sunday afternoons until the coming in November, 1875, of Reverend T. H. Hench, who had been called as the first pastor. May 2, 1876, the cornerstone of the new church building was laid. The Sunday school room of the new building was ready for occupancy February 11, 1877. Here the congregation worshiped until the auditorium was completed, in 1878.

Reverend W. S. Marquis, who was called in March, 1884, and installed as pastor on June 15, 1884, and who, up to the present time (1908) is still serving the church.

Among the more interesting and important facts in the history of this church, the following may be mentioned: The dedication of the auditorium, November 3, 1878; South Park Mission, organized July 15, 1888; South Park Chapel, dedicated October 7, 1888;

plans for enlargement of church and new Sunday school room adopted September 3, 1894; corner store of same laid and Twentieth anniversary celebrated April 29, 1895; Sunday school room dedicated December 8, 1895; Reverend Graham Lee, a member of the church, ordained to the Gospel ministry and sent forth to Korea in 1894, now supported as the foreign mission pastor of Broadway church; Sunday school room used by the High school for one year after the burning of the High school building, February 15, 1901; Synod of Illinois entertained October, 1904.

#### SPENCER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH.

At a conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church for this district, held during the month of September, 1900, J. B. Rutter, the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Milan, asked the Elder and the Conference for the privilege of organizing a church in the Edgewood Park district, between the cities of Rock Island and Moline, and this permission was granted to him, and on the 25th day of April, 1901, he and his wife, Ella Alter Rutter, organized a Sunday school, with Mr. Rutter as pastor and Miss Maud Maxwell secretary. On June 5, he organized a society known as the Edgewood Park Ladies' Aid. Mrs. M. E. Leverich was elected president, Mrs. J. A. Pauley vice-president and Mrs. Ella Alter Rutter secretary. On the 7th day of October, 1901, at a meeting called for that purpose, the following persons—David J. Sears, S. J. Ferguson, W. E. Scott, J. A. Pauley, Andrew Olson, James Gauley and T. C. Nutter—organized themselves into a board of trustees, and elected J. A. Pauley secretary. J. B. Rutter, the pastor, gave the name of Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal church.

This organization then adopted the Sunday school as above organized, and the Ladies' Aid Society above organized, and together they became the congregation of the Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.

During the time of the completion of this organization, J. B. Rutter received a donation of two lots from Mr. Frank Robinson, now deceased, and on October 23, 1901, the Ladies' Aid Society undertook to put a foundation of the new church upon the lots at the corner of Forty-third Street and Seventh Avenue, and the corner stone of this foundation was laid on Thanksgiving day, 1902. The church, Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society were holding their meetings at a little chapel, known as the Old Swede Church, at the corner of Third Street and Fourth Avenue, in Moline. On October 25, 1903, through the energy and ingenuity of J. B. Rutter, the church proper had been erected and finished upon the foundation laid by the Ladies' Aid Society, and dedication services were held amid a great demonstration. The people of Edgewood Park district together with other generous minded people of Rock Island and Moline, placed the church organization in a position to do legitimate church business. The building and foundation, together with the expenses of obtaining the same, had cost over \$20,000, and this enormous debt hanged over the new organization unprovided for until September 8, 1907, for while through the efforts of the pastor, J. B. Rutter, the church building had been placed in position and the congregation well organized, yet it remained for the conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held during September, 1906, to provide a man in the person of W. P. MacVey, to systematize and provide for the raising of the enormous church debt. The new pastor, who replaced J. B. Rutter, succeeded in placing this debt in a manageable form, and now at the last conference held during the month of September, 1907, the Reverend W. P. MacVey was replaced by F. E. Shult, the new pastor. The pastorate of J. B. Rutter extended from September, 1901, to September, 1906 five years. Until March 31, 1905, he had by his

side, Ella Altar Rutter, his wife, and to her in great measure is due the tireless energy and effort required in the organization, management and building of this church. On March 31, 1905, she died, leaving as her monument Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. The name, Spencer, is in honor of a well known citizen by the name of William Spencer.

Since its organization the church has gained in each of its departments, the Sunday school has increased from a membership of ten to a membership of over two hundred. The Ladies' Aid Society has increased from a membership of thirteen to a membership of seventy-five. The church has now a membership of one hundred and eighty-one regular affiliated members, and in the leadership of our new pastor, F. E. Shult, the people of the Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church expect to accomplish great things for Methodism in the Edgewood Park district.

#### HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.

Rock Island has two well established and flourishing synagogues, the largest of which is Beth Israel, located at the corner of Twenty-second Street and Third Avenue, M. Goldman, Rabbi. This congregation, in the year 1902, erected a magnificent edifice in which to worship. The Beth Israel Congregation, many years prior to the construction of their present synagogue, had occupied various quarters and had a large membership. Immediately following the building of their present house of worship, another congregation was formed, so that the Hebrews in the lower end of the city would not be called upon to traverse the long distance intervening between the Beth Israel synagogue and their homes. This second synagogue, B'Nai Jacob Congregation, is temporarily located on Ninth Street and Eighth Avenue, and is under the direction of Frederick Rudman, president of the congregation.



## EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

The church was organized December 3, 1905, by the coming together of twenty-seven Baptists from the First Church of Moline and Rock Island. They called H. B. Hayden as pastor on December 10, 1905. The church grew to sixty-two members. The title to the old Baptist Chapel on Forty-fourth Street was cleared by action of the First Baptist Church and the residuary heirs of Mr. Sinnett.

The building was moved to a lot on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Forty-fourth Street, donated by Mrs. Pauline Sinnett; the parsonage, also donated by her, is on this lot.

## GERMAN EVANGELICAL FRIEDENS CONGREGATION.

This congregation, a member of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, was founded September 8, 1895, by Reverend C. F. Off, with thirty members. The first officers elected were: Martin Oswald, Henry Fues, Herman Meese, John Wendt. In April, 1896, Reverend Theo F. Krueger, of Cumberland, Indiana, was elected as permanent pastor of the congregation. In the Summer of this year the congregation bought the church property of the English Methodist Episcopal congregation, at 516 Ninth Street. In October, 1899, Reverend Krueger left the congregation, and Reverend J. F. C. Trefzer was elected as his successor. Under his management the parsonage was built south of the church, No. 520 Ninth Street.

When Reverend Trefzer left the congregation in October, 1903, Reverend Ed E. Klimpke of Aurora, Illinois, the present pastor, was called to succeed him. He took up the work in the congregation the 1st of May, 1904. In 1905 and 1906 the church was rebuilt with a cost of \$2,000. The officers of the congregation at present are: Reverend Ed E. Klimpke, pastor; John Wendt, president; Carl Krueger, secretary;

Herman Meese, treasurer; Otto Woest, secretary. The congregation has at present a membership of about one hundred and fifty. The Ladies' Aid Society has seventy-five members. The officers are: Mrs. Emma Kann, president; Mrs. Fennesy, vice-president; Mrs. Dora Krueger, secretary; Mrs. Elise Seidel, treasurer; Mrs. Pomranke, financial secretary. The Young People's Society has about thirty members. The officers are: Reverend Ed E. Klimpke, president; Miss Olga Krueger, vice-president; Miss Martha Klimpke, secretary; Mr. Arthur Lenz, treasurer; Miss Bertha Pomranke, financial secretary; Miss Martha Schmidt, librarian.

The Sunday school has a membership of about one hundred.

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST (SCIENTIST)

First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Rock Island, Illinois, is a branch of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts. It was organized on November 2, 1896, to take possession of and conduct services in the church edifice which had been erected for its use by a few adherents of the Christian Science faith.

This was the first church edifice erected in the State of Illinois to be used exclusively for the Christian Science worship. Its location is on Twenty-third Street, near Ninth Avenue, and near the geographical center of the city.

The dedicatory service, held on November 8, 1906, was the first Christian Science Sunday service held in Rock Island, the local Christian Scientists having previously attended church in Davenport, Iowa.

The Sunday services are held at 10:45 A. M., and are conducted by two readers, who are elected every three years from the membership of the church. One of the readers reads from the Bible. The other from Science and Health with key to the Scriptures, the text book of Christian Science by Mary Baker G. Eddy. Sunday school is held immediately after the morning service.

For a number of years a reading room has been maintained in connection with the church.

### ST. PAUL'S (BELGIAN) CATHOLIC CHURCH.

St. Paul's Church, located on Twenty-fourth Street and Eighth and a half Avenue, was opened for services for the first time on February 5, 1905. On that occasion the choir rendered beautiful music and the pastor, Reverend J. B. Ceulemans, delivered the sermon, in which he spoke of the many previous attempts which were made to organize a parish in which the Belgian Catholics of Rock Island could worship together in a congregation all of their own people.

Although their place of worship is very modest, it is quite attractive inside. The Reverend J. B. Ceulemans was born in Belgium, where he was educated and ordained a priest. In 1907 Father Ceulemans took charge of Sacred Heart Church in Moline, and left Rock Island.

He was succeeded by another priest from Belgium, Father Leon E. VanStoppen. This is the present pastor, and who builded the parsonage house, which is a fine improvement to the church property.

### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Sacred Heart parish was founded July 28, 1898, by the Reverend John F. Lockney. It includes all the English speaking catholics between Twenty-third Street, both sides, to Forty-sixth Street. Father Lockney built a temporary church on Twenty-eighth Street and used it two years. He moved the parochial residence twenty feet east in order to have room to built the new church.

The corner-stone of the new church was laid in May, 1901, and the first mass in the new church was Christmas, 1902. The new church cost \$36,000. Father Lockney bought the property for \$5,500. The magnificent

church, rectory and grounds are worth today \$60,000. The pastor and people have worked very zealously together and the parish in is a very flourishing condition. Father Lockney still presides over the destinies of the parish and is the longest resident Catholic pastor in Rock Island.

### CHURCHES OF MOLINE.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Organized 1844. First pastor, Reverend A. B. Hitchcock, a Yale graduate, and a man of great influence in the community. The first chorister was Anson M. Hubbard, and who organized the first brass band in the three cities. He developed a strong chorus choir, the parent of all Moline's later musical organizations. The first church building was a small wooden structure, now occupied as the freight depot of the Burlington railroad. A brick structure was erected at Seventeenth Street and Fifth Avenue in 1869, and this was remodeled at an expense of \$40,000 in 1900. The church is unusually complete in its appointments, having parlors, a dining room and kitchen capable of serving three hundred people at once, gymnasium and shower baths for the boys' club, etc. The church has a magnificent organ of 1,500 pipes, built on the Bennett system, the gift of Sarah M. Atkinson, in memory of her husband and son.

Among the pioneers in the church were John Deere, D. C. Dimock, Charles Atkinson, Jonathan Huntton, Joseph Huntton, R. K. Swan, Thomas Merryman, N. C. Tyrrell and W. H. Edwards. The church has given birth to three other churches, the Second Congregational, now some eighteen years old, and the Ridgeview and East Moline churches, organized three years ago. It has given several thousand dollars to the work of these organizations. The present pastor is Paul W. Brown, who has been with the church since 1904.

### THE SWEDISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The church was organized in September, 1849, by Reverend Jonas Hedstrom of, it is said, seven members. Among them was Claus Bengston, the first Swedish settler in Moline. The meetings of the church were held in Mr. Bengston's home for more than ten years. In 1860 the first church was built on Park Street and Boardman Avenue, now Seventh Avenue and Fifteenth Street or "Five Points." That building was sold in 1871 and the old American Methodist church was bought and moved to the corner of Henry and Lynde Streets, now Fifth Avenue and Sixteenth Street, where the new church was built in 1889, during the pastorate of Martin Hess. During all these years the church has had a steady growth and progress, so from the seven first members the total number counts to date two hundred and twenty-five. If all the members who have joined and later moved to other places had held their membership here the church would now number more than twice its present membership.

About twenty-five pastors have served the church during the past sixty years. Among them many of the pioneers in Swedish Methodism. The present pastor is John P. Miller, who is serving his fourth year. The parsonage was built about thirty-five years ago. The church property is worth today about \$30,000.

### SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was organized with fifty members about 1850. Its membership is considerably over a thousand, with over three hundred Sunday school scholars. Reverend L. P. Esbjorn, in charge at Andover, Henry County, was pastor also of this church up to 1856, and under his ministry the first church was built. He was succeeded by Reverend O. C. T. Andreen, till 1860; Rev-

erend G. Peters, till 1863; Reverend J. S. Benson, from 1866 to 1873; followed by the Reverend A. G. Setterdahl. The present pastor is Reverend Lawrence A. Johnston.

The present church building is of brick, in the Gothic style of architecture, of very handsome design, costing nearly \$30,000.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Reverend Joseph Elliot, a clergyman from Ohio came here in November, 1850, on a visit to his son, residing here. He was invited to preach, and did so; curiosity drawing a large congregation to hear the stranger. On the evening of January 18, 1851, the church was organized, with twenty members, the Reverend Mr. Elliot being its first pastor, succeeded by Reverends Eberhart, L. C. Carr, F. D. Rickerson, William Patterson, Isaac Newell, T. F. Borchers and G. F. Linfield, respectively. The present pastor is the Reverend Benjamin F. Martin.

### ST. ANTHONY'S (ROMAN CATHOLIC) CHURCH.

The first Catholic priest to officiate at Moline was Father Allemann, of Rock Island, in 1857. He held services at different places outside of his regular parish, at Moline, Hampton, and other points. In 1858 the church was built in Moline.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Is located at the southeast corner of Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue. Reverend Joseph S. Kelly is rector, and Reverend Michael Gildea, assistant rector.

### THE FIRST SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Swedish Baptist Church of Moline, Illinois, was organized May 7, 1876. Those organizing themselves to a church were before members of the Swedish Church in Rock Island, which was organized in 1853.

The counsel present at the organization was: Doctor Nasbitt, D. Hawes and D. Colby

from the American Church in Rock Island; Reverend Powell, Rockbausch and Williams, from Davenport; Reverend L. L. Frisk, P. Halling, A. Y. Yonson, P. Flodin and C. O. Yensen from the Swedish Baptist Church, of Rock Island; Reverend T. F. Borches, Frank Sinnet and O. Gunnell, from the American Baptist Church, Moline.

Reverend T. F. Borches was elected chairman and Reverend O. Lind clerk. The membership of the new church at its organization was seventy-four. The following officers were elected: Deacons, Yohannes Anderson and Christoffer Lofquist; trustees, Charles Carlson, Nels Rundquist and P. Erickson. Properties owned by the church are a church building, a parsonage and a house for the janitor.

The seating capacity of the church is five hundred. It is built of brick. The parsonage is located in the finest part of the city. The church has had a steady growth since its organization. Over three hundred have been baptized; about two hundred and twenty-five received by letter and about fifty by experience. The total number of members received since its organization is over six hundred. The membership at present is two hundred and thirty-five.

The pastor now having charge of the church is Reverend Detlof Lofstrom, who began work in connection with the church April 6, 1905. He came here from McKeesport, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate from the Swedish Department of the University of Chicago since April 14, 1892. Reverend Lofstrom was born in Sweden and came to this country twenty years ago.

#### THE SECOND METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Second Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the year 1890 by the Reverend Addis Albro, who was then pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and Presiding Elder M. A. Head of the Rock

Island District. The United Brethren church owned a building in Stewartville, and their membership was fast becoming extinct, when they decided to dispose of their church property. The building was purchased from the United Brethren people, and steps were taken at once to organize a Second Methodist Church in Stewartville, now known as South Moline. Into this new organization were received forty-eight members from the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The first pastor appointed was Reverend S. L. Guthrie. During the first year, revival services were held and sixty-six members were added to the roll. His pastorate was blessed with great results. The second year plans were made to improve the building. A league room was added at a cost of nearly \$1,000. Reverend Guthrie was pastor two years. In September, 1892, Reverend J. W. Edwards was appointed pastor, and remained one year. Reverend Fletcher DeClark was appointed pastor in 1893. He was followed in 1894 by Reverend W. H. Crane, who was pastor two years. In 1896 Reverend R. G. Pearce was appointed pastor and remained one year and six months; owing to failing health he resigned. January 10, 1898, Reverend A. H. Smith was appointed pastor and served the church two years and six months. Reverend G. H. Thorpe was the next pastor taking up the work June 2, 1900. Reverend C. C. McKown was appointed pastor September, 1900, followed by Reverend A. E. Ioder, September 23, 1901. September 26, 1904, the present pastor, Reverend D. S. Andrewartha, was assigned the charge.

During all these pastorates the church has steadily made gains. The members are earnest in their efforts, for the success of their church. At present improvements are being made, and when completed, will put the property in splendid condition, making it one of the most attractive churches for its size in the City of Moline.

## SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Second Congregational Church of Moline was started as a Mission Sunday School sometime between 1880 and 1890. It was organized as a church June 7, 1891, Reverend J. M. McKnight being its first pastor. There were thirty-two members, twenty-six coming in by letter and six on confession of faith. The first clerk and treasurer was William Gamble. The trustees were C. T. Guy, W. V. Richards, John Williams, J. Stofft and W. T. Ball.

The parsonage was built in 1903. The present membership is one hundred and seventy. The present pastor is Reverend Richard S. Haney.

## CHRIST CHURCH.

The Episcopal church was late in coming to Moline. It was organized May 22, 1891, as a mission under grant from Bishop Burgess. Sixty persons signed the application to the Bishop and called the Reverend Robert Hewitt as first priest in charge. For several years the organization met in the association rooms in the auditorium. The congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State on September 11, 1891, and adopted a constitution. The first wardens were George B. Hull and John A. Mann. Reverend L. Sinclair came from Sudbury, Ontario, to the charge of the parish in September, 1892, and remained until the spring of 1894, when a call was extended to Reverend F. K. Howard of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, to become rector.

During the rectorship of Father Howard the present church building was erected and occupied January 1, 1895.

Reverend Robert Hewitt was again called to the parish in 1897 and remained in charge until June 1, 1899. The parish was then without the regular ministrations of a priest until June 1, 1900, when the Reverend Doctor F. H. Burrell was called from Darlington, Wisconsin.

No missions have been organized as offshoots of this parish, but it is in a healthy, growing condition, and future prospects bright.

## THE PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

In the Summer of 1903, the Reverend W. A. Elliott (under the auspices of the Congregational Sunday School Society, directed by Reverend W. F. McMillan, secretary), entered East Moline and succeeded in organizing a school. Although difficult, it has proven beneficial to the community, and has been well attended, especially by the young. In December, 1903, under direction of the First Congregational Church of Moline, the Reverend Frank Hoover, state evangelist of the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Illinois, held a series of evangelical services, assisted by Reverend W. W. Willard of the First Congregational Church of Moline, and Reverend J. W. Davies of Creston, Illinois; meetings being held in the John Deere School buildings. As a result the names of twenty-five people were received for membership.

Organization was perfected January 15, 1904, and incorporation February 28, 1905. The council unanimously voted to recognize the Plymouth Congregational Church of East Moline, Illinois. An unusually pleasant evening of song service, scriptural reading and hand of fellowship was indulged in, followed by an exceedingly fine sermon by Doctor A. M. Brodie, of Chicago, closing with prayer and benediction. Reverend J. W. Davies was the first ordained pastor, followed by the Reverend Henry Harris of Chicago, whose strong efforts and skill as an organizer and builder, with the assistance of the Reverend Paul Brown, the regular pastor, and his congregation succeeded in erecting a fine church of concrete blocks. Reverend Walter H. North is the present pastor.



### SACRED HEART BELGIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Belgian Catholic population of this city had worshiped at St. Mary's church ever since the organization of that parish, some thirty years ago. But with the growth of the city, the need of a separate congregation became more and more apparent. In answer to an often expressed desire, Bishop John Lancaster Spalding of Peoria organized this congregation in September, 1906.

Building operations were started in November of the same year, and completed in March, 1907. The work has met with the hearty and enthusiastic support of the membership, which is upward of three hundred families.

In September, 1907, there was opened in connection with the church, a parochial school, numbering at present two hundred and sixty pupils. This school follows the public school program in all its grades and is free to children of all denominations.

The congregation possesses at present a church and school edifice, a parsonage, and a residence for the Sisters conducting the school. The present pastor is Reverend J. B. Ceulemans, residence 1304 Sixteenth Avenue, Moline, Illinois.

### CHURCHES OF TOWNSHIPS.

#### CORDOVA CHURCHES.

In the Fall of 1843, Elder Jesse N. Seeley, a missionary under the American Baptist Home Mission Society, held a series of meetings, resulting in the conversion of a number of persons, ten of whom were baptized by Elder Jesse N. Seeley. These, with others in this vicinity who were members of Baptist churches in other places, united in measures for church organization, and called a council of delegates from other churches for a meeting on December 28, 1843.

The following brethren were present:

James Turner, Enos French, John Campbell, William Hubbard, William Parkhurst, Bath

Church; Luther Edwards, Reverend E. Marcellas, O. Blanchard, William W. Pierce, D. Wilson, Port Byron Church; Reverend J. N. Seeley, Davenport, Iowa; J. H. Swartwout, Galena, Illinois; E. Calkins, Rock Island, Illinois.

The council was organized by appointing Reverend J. N. Seeley moderator and Daniel Wilson clerk.

The church letters were then called for and presented by the following: Levi Hungerford and Betsey Hungerford, Madison, Ohio; Frances Swartwout, Francis D. Swartwout, Thomas Swartwout, Clarissa Swartwout, Clarissa E. Swartwout, Elizabeth Swartwout, Port Byron, Illinois; William Armstrong, Rebecca Passmore, Joseph R. Sexton, Mahala Sexton, J and L. Cool, Margaret Cool, Andrew S. Ege, Mary Ann Ege, Charity Golden, Amanda Adams, these were baptized by Reverend J. N. Seeley, and led to the organization of the church.

The afore named eighteen were the constituent members of the Cordova Baptist church, organized the 28th day of December, 1843.

On August 24, 1844, it was decided to build a meeting house, which on February 13, 1845, was dedicated. Sometime in 1856 a parsonage was built and the church decided to build a new meeting house, and on November 17, 1858, the new meeting house was dedicated, which is the one used by the church today.

#### THE PORT BYRON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Port Byron Congregational Church was organized in 1849, on the first and second days of September, through the instrumentality of Reverend Julius A. Reed, home missionary agent for Iowa. Previous to this time there had been Congregational preaching in the town once or twice.

The church edifice was started in 1854 and completed in 1856. The parsonage was built in 1894. The original number of members

was twelve and now it is about one hundred and forty-nine. At present we have no pastor, as Reverend W. B. Shaw resigned October, 1907.

#### PORT BYRON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1836, with a membership of six or eight, among whom were Archibald Allen, Candace Allen, J. H. Lyford and wife, and John Mitchell and wife. The earliest meetings were held in a log cabin, but a good church was built some years later, at an expense of \$3,000. The church is in a flourishing condition, with a good membership.

#### COE TOWNSHIP CHURCHES.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ was organized at the house of Father John Walker, on Canoe Creek, in 1847, where the earliest meetings were held. The first church was built in 1849, at a cost of three hundred dollars, but replaced by a new one in 1868, at an expense of \$3,000. The pastors have been Herman Scott, Moses Clifton, E. Church, John Dollarhide, W. E. Henry, F. Dietz, Meritt Lathrop, J. K. M. Looker, A. B. Frasier, J. H. Young, G. Brisby, George Snyder, C. Wendle, J. H. Grimin, W. R. Coursey, S. F. Medlar and C. Bender.

#### BETHESDA, CANOE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Bethesda, was built in 1859, by Reverend Stephen Odell, Perry Henderson and others. It is located about a mile southwest of Hillsdale. It has a fair membership, with a good Sunday school attendance.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. ZUMA.

The first Methodist Episcopal class organized in Zuma was in March, 1870, in the Wake school house, and the following named persons composed the class: John A. Don-

ohoo and wife, L. W. Beal and wife, Mrs. Mary Moody, Mrs. Knowls, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. William McKeever, Mr. and Mrs. George Wake, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Mumma, and quite a number joined on probation and came into the church later, and others wandered away forever. The first Methodist Episcopal church that was built was dedicated in September, 1870, by Reverend Worthington; the first pastor was Reverend Jemerson, and the first elder was the sedate, efficient and Godly Reverend Doctor Hunter. The first church built was taken down in 1903, and during the thirty-three years it was occupied we had twenty-one pastors and ten elders, and among them was some grand, good men, consecrated men, and all were faithful to their trust.

In January, 1904, the new church was dedicated by the Reverend Smith of Aledo, and the pastor was Reverend Mecham, and after him came Reverend T. Wood, then A. A. Waters. The present pastor is Reverend W. Hull, and the present elder is Reverend Doctor Wiley. When we built the first church the circuit was called Zuma, Cordova, Carbon Cliff and Pleasant Valley, belonging to the circuit. In the seventies, Fairfield built a church; Cordova and the other two places were added to Port Byron, and Hampton, then in 1895 or 1896 Hillsdale built a church and it was dedicated by Reverend Elder Head, and since then the circuit has been called Hillsdale.

#### RAPIDS CITY.

The first church organized in Rapids City was the Church of Christ, on September 8, 1856, by Elder G. W. Smith, with a membership of twelve. Commencing May, 1857, A. G. Lucas, an evangelist, was pastor for two years, and added eighty members, he being succeeded by Elder H. C. Brown, who added forty-two members in a year and one-half. The church owns a commodious brick house, built upon the land donated by Jonas Barber.

## HAMPTON CHURCHES.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded by the Reverend G. G. Worthington in 1842 or 1843. Among its members were Harmon G. Reynolds, E. F. Arcularius and wife, and Nancy Thompson; the membership being eleven. The church has belonged to respectively the Rock Island circuit, Moline circuit, Port Byron circuit, when in 1865 the Hampton circuit was organized. In 1870 Hampton was joined to Zuma and called Rock River circuit. In 1874 Zuma was cut off and Hampton circuit resumed.

The Congregational Church was organized February 15, 1853, by the Reverend A. B. Hitchcock, with a membership of fourteen. A church was built in 1856 and 1857, at a cost of \$2,500.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WATER-TOWN.

This church was organized July 27, 1865, by Elder H. S. P. Warren, Laura J. Warren, Mary A. Bayte, Mary E. Newton, and E. Warren. The first pastor was Elder H. S. P. Warren. They built a house of worship in 1877, which was greatly improved in 1906. The present pastor is Reverend H. W. Parker.

## COAL VALLEY CHURCHES.

Coal Valley is well supplied with churches.

The Welsh Baptist Church was organized in 1866, under the supervision of Reverend T. M. Matthews, remaining its pastor until 1870.

In 1867 the Presbyterian Church was organized, with John Barton, Albert Owens, Frederic Freeburg, Hugh Caughey and Robert Lee as trustees; the membership numbering twenty-five members. A church was built the same year, costing \$2,500.

The Primitive Methodists were organized in 1868, a church being erected the following year, costing \$2,000. Their first preacher was Reverend Charles Dawson, who came

from Kewanee once a month. It was some time before they had a regular resident minister.

The Welsh Congregational Church was organized in 1857 by the Reverend John L. Richards, with a membership of fifteen. Meetings being first held at the home of Mrs. Sarah Williams. In the year 1862 a house of worship, costing \$1,000, was built.

The Roman Catholic residents, prior to 1875, were connected with the Rock Island mission. In 1870 they build a church, costing \$2,000, which was formerly opened for worship by Reverend John P. Roles, who supervised the building of the church, which is in a flourishing condition.

## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MILAN.

The First Presbyterian Church of Milan, Illinois, originally known as the First Presbyterian Church of Camden, Old School Branch, was organized in April, 1845. The town was laid out in 1843, and as the settlers were mainly God-fearing men and women, they soon felt the need of a religious organization. As the majority of those who desired the church were of Presbyterian belief, they resolved, with Mr. William Dickson at the head, to organize a church of this denomination. To this end, notice was duly given to the people of the town of Camden and vicinity to meet in the meeting house on April 5, 1845. The Reverend Samuel Cleland was the moderator, and the Reverend Thomas Vaill clerk of the meeting. The meeting being constituted with prayer by the moderator, the object of the meeting was stated. Mr. William Dickson presented a number of articles and resolutions for consideration and action, these forming the constitution by which they were hereafter to be regulated. After the second reading they were unanimously adopted. The first services in the town of Camden were held in the mill owned by F. R. Brunot and James Dickson, Reverend

Ithamar Pillsbury preaching the sermon from the text found in Luke, 17:35. During the Winter of 1844-45, the services were held at the home of James Dickson, as the mill proved too cold for comfort. It was during the Winter of 1845-46 that Father Dickson built the first church; not so much as the price of a nail was contributed by anyone else. Laborers were scarce and money scarce; so the greater part of the work devolved upon him. The timbers must be taken from the forest and floated across Rock River, as there were no bridges. The task was a difficult one, but the building was completed on May 21, 1846, and dedicated free of debt on the 22d, to the services of Almighty God. Reverend Wilson preached the dedicatory sermon, and Reverend Pillsbury offered the dedicatory prayer. The following Sunday, May 24th, the first sacrament was celebrated. Whether with minister or without, as it often was, the church depended in a great measure on this good man, Father Dickson, to afford the means of grace. Every Sabbath the voice of prayer and praise might be heard. Often he read a sermon to the little band of worshipers, and was ever their leader. The founders or charter members were: William Dickson, Mariam C. Dickson, James Dickson, Ruth Ann Dickson, Sarah Dickson, David M. Dickson, Francis E. Dickson, William Clark, Almira Clark, Eliza Ann Dickson, Elizabeth M. Dickson, William Pinkerton, Rachel Pinkerton, Edmund Hollister and Emma A. Hollister.

During the pastorate of Doctor W. W. Morehead the little church became too small to accommodate the growing congregation. The necessity of a new church brought about the building of the present house of worship. This building, begun in 1866, was dedicated, also free of debt, by Doctor Morehead, on October 4, 1868. The committee who attended to this work were: James Dickson and N. D. Bradley. The interior of the building was remodeled in 1902, and is now one of

the prettiest and neatest churches in this part of the State. In 1878 the parsonage was built, later a barn was added. In 1894 a pipe organ was placed in the church. The present membership is one hundred and forty. The following have served as pastors since the organization of the church: Reverend Ithaman Pillsbury, 1845-48; Reverend W. W. Bockus, 1850-51; Reverend S. T. Wilson, 1852-54; Reverend Thomas M. Chestnut, 1855-56; Reverend Jacob Coon, 1858-63; Reverend W. W. Morehead, Doctor of Divinity, 1863-71; Reverend Moses Noerr, Doctor of Divinity, 1871-77; Reverend S. T. Davis, Doctor of Medicine, 1878-79; Reverend G. B. Black, 1879-81; Reverend S. T. McClure, 1881-83; Reverend C. F. Carson, 1883-88; Reverend Watson Russell, 1889-90; Reverend W. B. McKee, 1890-93; Reverend D. T. Robertson, 1894-97; Reverend H. W. Rehder, 1897-1901; Reverend Marion Humphreys, 1901-05; Reverend H. Cullen, Doctor of Divinity, present pastor, began his work October 1, 1905.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MIHAN.

Reverend F. Haney first held service here, as one of the stations on the Camden circuit, and was followed by Reverend John Grundy, who remained two years. The church was organized in 1848, and preaching was done in the school house, until 1854, when the church was built.

#### ANDALUSIA CHURCHES.

The earliest meetings of the Methodist Episcopal Church Society were held during 1849, at the residence of Mrs. Sarah Buffum. At this time there were only about seven church members of all denominations in the township, and ministers were doing missionary work. Subsequently their meetings were held in various places, until the organization of the class at the residence of Joseph Garnett, at Sulphur Springs, in the Fall of 1858. The

original members were: Mrs. Sarah Buffum, Elizabeth Eby, F. A. Cobb, Joseph Garnett, Mrs. Clara W. Ferguson and Mrs. Susan Garnett, at which time W. J. Giddings was pastor, succeeded by Reverend Mr. Linthecum, and Reverend Mr. Welsh in 1859. During their pastorate, the district school house was improved for the Baptist Church, and there they held their meetings. The Reverends Ashbaugh and Richmond in 1861; J. W. Barteles in 1864, and Mr. Martin in 1865. In 1866 the society built a house of worship, which was dedicated in March, 1867.

The first church of the United Brethren in Christ, of Andalusia, held their first meetings in the Summer of 1863 in the district school house, the Reverend John Wenger preaching the first sermon; meetings only being held occasionally. It was mainly through the influence of H. S. Thompson and wife the services were had, and led to the organization of the church by Reverend Samuel Knox in September, 1864, at the school house. H. S. Thompson and wife, M. M. Thompson and Cynthia Smith were the original four members. H. S. Thompson was the first class leader and steward. The pastorate of the church was first filled by Reverend Samuel Knox. Reverend St. Clair Ross, during his pastorate in 1868, devised means for building a suitable house of worship. The Sabbath school maintained by this church, had its origin in a Union Sabbath school organized May 1, 1859. As the various churches grew strong enough, denominational Sabbath schools were established.

The First Baptist Church of Andalusia held their first meetings in 1867. Pursuant to a business meeting of the Baptist Church held at Edgington the second Saturday in November, 1866, authorizing the members of the church residing in Andalusia and vicinity, to form a separate organization. A meeting was called at Andalusia May 1, 1867, for the purpose of forming a church organization, which was done the evening of May 15, 1867,

with a membership of twenty-five. They succeeded in providing a suitable meeting house at a cost of about \$2,000, on a lot donated by S. M. Boney and others. Reverend O. T. Conger was the first pastor, followed by Reverends J. C. Post, Mr. Lamb, of Davenport, Iowa; James Young, S. D. Ross, Gilman Parker, Thomas A. Williams.

#### DRURY TOWNSHIP CHURCHES.

At Wrayville the German Methodists have a church, built in 1875, at a cost of \$1,000. They also have a parsonage, in which the Reverend Carwell resides.

Near Foster the Baptists have a house of worship, built about 1871, through the efforts of their first pastor, Reverend E. Odell. A parsonage was built for the occupancy of the pastor, who is now Reverend Spiller.

#### EDGINGTON CHURCHES.

The Presbyterian Church, organized in the Dunlap cabin in the Fall of 1837, was the first church organized in Edgington. Joseph Dunlap and Daniel Montgomery were the first elders. The organization was effected by Reverend John Montgomery, an itinerant home missionary, by appointment of the Presbytery of Schuyler. Church services were held for several years once a month, or at long intervals, in the Dunlap cabin during Winter months and in the barn in Summer. Reverend John Montgomery, the first minister, was a brother of Daniel Montgomery. The Montgomeries came from Pennsylvania in 1836; Daniel locating "far out on the prairie," on section twenty-six, and his brother, John, the missionary over in Mercer county. In those days there was a common brotherhood and sisterhood among the people of all professions. They came long distances, in big wagons, to church, some with ox teams, some on horseback, and some on foot. Church courtesies were not gilt edged, nor silk fringed. Worshipers did not stand aloof until introduced before speaking to one another. The



social gulf was narrow and easily bridged by a hearty handshake and "howdy-do." During the years 1843-44 a church was built twenty-two by forty feet in dimensions. Most of the material of which it was built was taken out of the timber surrounding it. The church thus built had added to it in 1859 a vestibule, gallery and tower. The church had no settled minister for years. Those who served the longest terms, either as pastor or supply were Reverends Samuel Cleland, A. W. Loomis, Jesse M. Jamison, Thomas M. Wilson and Thomas R. Johnson. The pastorate of the latter began May 28, 1863, and continued until June, 1904, making a pastorate of thirty-nine years. During the ministry of Mr. Johnson the community developed and enjoyed a great measure of prosperity. In this the church shared. This materialized in the present church building, which was erected in 1896. This is one of the finest and most commodious churches in the country. It has a seating capacity of about four hundred. It is provided with Sunday school rooms, cloak room, vestibule and gallery. There is also a very comfortable house near by. Since December 1, 1904, Reverend J. L. Herming has been the pastor in charge; Reverend T. R. Johnson being pastor emeritus.

The first Methodist preaching was by itinerant missionaries—James Smith, Jordan and McMurtrie, 1836-40—at the residence of Charles Eberhart. A class was regularly organized in June, 1843, with H. H. Parks as leader. In 1854 they erected a commodious house of worship by the roadside, one and three-fourth miles east of the village of Edgington, and named it Zion. It is still occupied and kept in good repair.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1846, and a house of worship built about one-eighth of a mile east of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was sold to a farmer some years ago and a new house built at Taylor Ridge. The meeting at which the organiza-

tion was effected was held in a barn of George D. Parmenter, in the village of Edgington, August 10, 1846, and the Reverend Mr. Brabrooks preached the sermon. Reverend Clark, of Mercer County, was the first regular minister, and in the capacity of pastor served the congregation until 1848.

The Catholic Church. Through the fifties and sixties a priest from a distant parish, Rock Island or elsewhere, visited the families occasionally and held services in the homes. Then a frame house was built for worship by the roadside, opposite and a little north of the Presbyterian church, and services are still held there once a month, and the ordinances administered, and pastoral work done by a non-resident priest.

## FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

### THE FRATERNAL TRIBUNES.

The home offices of The Fraternal Tribunes, a fraternal insurance society having a national reputation, are located in Rock Island, and the society occupies the entire second story of the Carse Building. This is a Rock Island institution of growing importance, having been organized in 1897, in which year a charter was received from the State of Illinois and its lodges now number up into the hundreds and are located in the thriving cities and towns of this and other states. The growth of The Fraternal Tribunes on January 1, 1908, was in excess of 11,000 members, and the society has paid in death and disability benefits over \$425,000. In its scope the society is purely a fraternal beneficiary order, having a representative form of government and conducting its business upon the lodge plan, and it admits men and women for insurance benefits in the sum of \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000, each individual age at entry determining the cost to the insured. The present supreme officers are as follows: Honorable T. J. Medill, past supreme tribune Rock Island, Ill.; K. M. Whitham, supreme

tribune, Aledo, Illinois; Honorable W. C. Galloway, vice-supreme tribune, Aledo, Illinois; Robert Rexdale, supreme secretary, Rock Island, Illinois; Harold A. Weld, supreme treasurer, Rock Island, Illinois; Honorable James McCartney, supreme counsellor, Chicago, Illinois; Doctor A. L. Craig, supreme medical examiner, Chicago, Illinois; Gilbert Miller, supreme orator, Canton, Illinois; L. M. Campbell, supreme sergeant-at-arms, Peoria, Illinois; Sadie B. Miller, supreme guard, Chicago, Illinois; E. L. Wolff, supreme sentinel, Aledo, Illinois.

#### BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS.

The Rock Island Lodge, No. 980, of the brotherhood of Elks was organized June 26, 1905, with a membership of fifty-five; at the present time (September, 1908) it numbers three hundred and twenty-five. Their first quarters were over the Illinois Theatre. January 31, 1908, they moved to new quarters in the new Elks Building on Eighteenth Street near the river front, where they occupy two stories, and have a lodge room, club room, and accompaniments, as fine as any in the State. Departing from their old home, four hundred Elks formed in line and marched to their new home with the band playing "Auld Lang Syne." The fundamental principles of the order are charity and benevolence. Their salutation cry is "Hello Bill."

#### ARSENAL COUNCIL, NO. 171.

Arsenal Council of this city was organized in August, 1885, and its first officers were: President, H. D. Mack; vice-president, C. E. Hawley, speaker, Robert Bennett; ex-president, S. W. Raines, secretary, W. J. Kahlke; financial secretary, M. A. Patterson; sergeant, financial secretary, M. A. Patterson; treasurer, J. H. Cleland; medical examiner, Doctor G. L. Eyster; chaplain, A. W. Tanner; usher, M. Kuehlman; sergeant W. P. Cochran; trustees, E. H. Bowman, Harry Cleveland

and George Phillips. Many of the first charter members and officers are still members at present, some have died and a few have dropped out. The National Union teaches patriotism and tries to lift its members up to a higher sphere of life, and is one of the best fraternal organizations in existence today. It is an assessment fraternal organization, having a death benefit, and also gives insurance on the step rate plan, and straight life. Headquarters are in Toledo, Ohio.

#### THE TURN VEREIN.

The Rock Island Turn Verein, or the Turner Society, as it is commonly styled, is one of the best known and most substantial organizations in the city. Its origin dates back to April 16, 1857, when it was known as the Turn Gemeinde. It was incorporated in 1869. During the time that has intervened there has been but one real crisis in its affairs. That was happily tided over and since that time its growth has been steady and sufficient.

John Imber, a shoemaker, upon coming to this city during the fifties, began agitating the question of such an organization among the German residents. He aroused about twenty-five of his fellow countrymen and the society was formed. Julius Mosenfelder, the grocer, was the first president, John Wright, who was once employed in the mechanical department of *The Argus*, was the first secretary, and Mr. Imber the first turnwort, or leader of the classes in physical culture.

At first the society had no building in which to meet, but the lot at the northeast corner of Twenty-first Street and Sixth Avenue was bought and fenced in and the exercises were held in the open air during the first season. Rooms on the second floor of a building on Market Square, back of the Bengston Block, were then leased for a couple of years. Here the first dramatic undertakings were put on in the Winter of 1858-59. The next meeting place was in a building which occupied the

site of the new Hotel Harms. After a few years another change was made to the Empire Hall, as it was then known, located over 1506 Second Avenue.

The lot now owned by the society, and occupied by its present quarters on the south side of Third Avenue west of Sixteenth Street, was acquired in 1866. The wooden building, known as Turner Hall, had been in use as the church of the Episcopal congregation of the city, being abandoned upon the erection of the church now occupied. The brick gymnasium in the rear of the hall was put up about fifteen years ago at a cost of \$2,000, and the brick structure which now constitutes the main building was put up nine years ago at a cost of \$14,000. The property of the society is now valued at \$35,000.

It was in 1859 that the membership was reduced, through a schism, to nine, but it has grown since till at the present time it numbers 1,000. There is also a Ladies' Turner Society, with thirty-five members, that is maintained as an auxiliary to the main society.

The quarters are provided, in addition to the hall and a well equipped gymnasium, with nicely furnished club rooms, including a library of seven hundred volumes of works in German and English.

#### FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES.

One of our most interesting societies is that of the Eagles. The Far West has the distinction of the origin of The Fraternal Order of Eagles. Its principles of liberty, truth, justice and equality, appeal to the most conservative people of the country. The benefits to the member are: a physician to himself and family free of charge, one dollar a day sick benefit for sixteen weeks, and one hundred dollars in case of death.

Rock Island Aeria, No. 956, Fraternal Order of Eagles, was instituted January 15, 1905, at the Rock Island Turner Hall. Its charter list was composed of one hundred and thirty-one members. Oloff Banker was

its first president; A. D. Huesing, vice-president; J. F. Dindinger, secretary and, E. V. Ramser, treasurer. It is financially strong, although having expended a large sum for benefits and other purposes.

Its present membership (September, 1908) is four hundred and forty-six.

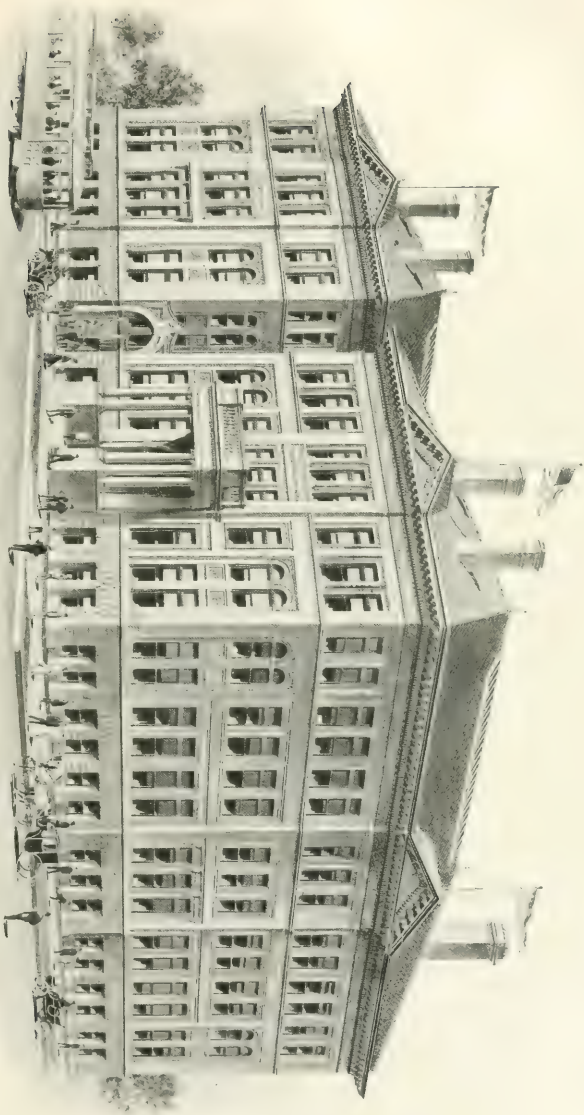
This association last Spring purchased the Murrin homestead on the south-west corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-first Street; a splendid location for the home, where they contemplate building; including lodge room, club room, reading rooms, and the necessary accessories.

#### THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

One of the most important Rock Island institutions is the head office building of the Modern Woodmen of America. In the Rock Island building, erected and furnished at an expense of more than \$425,000 are constantly employed an average force of two hundred people, with a monthly pay roll of over \$15,000. It will thus be seen that aside from the value as an advertisement to the city and county the society is a most valued financial institution, bringing to the locality a most desirable class of citizens who are connected with it.

The Modern Woodmen of America is a fraternal beneficiary society, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, May 5, 1884. It began business, however, and started as a fraternal beneficiary society with the organization of its first camp January 5, 1883, at the town of Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa. Its first camp was composed of twenty-one charter members and was instituted by Mr. Joseph Cullen Root. It is by far the largest fraternal beneficiary society in America, having on July 1, 1907, a membership in good standing of 851,441 beneficial members and 39,796 social members, or a grand total membership of 891,237. On this date it had 11,797 local camps of lodges distributed in the following states:

MAIN BUILDING OF THE MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA







Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Indian Territory, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

The society's principal purpose is to provide substantial death benefits for the widows, orphans and other dependents of deceased members, and for this purpose it issues to accepted members policies or certificates of insurance, and incidentally affords valuable fraternal privileges and advantages to all its members while living. It has unusually strong and attractive fraternal features. Its ritualism is beautiful, entertaining, instructive and helpful. Its local camps or lodges care for their sick and do all in their power to relieve members in distress. Many local camps pay sick benefits and most local camps have committees to care for the sick and distressed, and in countless ways co-operate in the promotion of the interests of their members, and in carrying out in fullest measure the sublime doctrines and teachings of co-operation and fellowship. Its plan of co-operation is of the simplest form, and yet in its vast business it has a system of methods in its various departments which is unsurpassed in the great commercial organizations of the country.

The management of this society is progressive, economic and business like. It has a representative form of government in which the voice of the individual member reaches the administration of the society's affairs through a delegate system, including triennial meetings of delegates from local camps to county conventions, and delegates from these county conventions in turn to state conventions, and delegates from these state

conventions to the National convention, or Head Camp, which is the legislative and controlling body of the organization. At its triennial head camps laws and rules are adopted and prescribed for the management, control and regulation of the society, as well as defining the privileges and powers, rights and duties of its members and officers. At its triennial head camps the various officers of the society are elected.

The plan of collecting and disbursing mortality benefits prescribed in its contracts is of the simplest form, furnishing protection or insurance at actual cost; the membership being called upon to pay such assessments from month to month to the Mortality or benefit fund, as its board of directors shall from time to time find necessary and desirable to meet the claims against such fund, occasioned by the current or monthly deaths among its membership, thus requiring from its members the payment of only that amount which is necessary to meet its death aims.

The expenses of conducting the business of the society aside from the payment of death claims are met from the general fund, which is separate and distinct at all times from the benefit or mortality fund, and which fund is made up of contributions for expense purposes from its membership in the nature of a per capita tax, which is fixed and levied by the head camp of the society. Since 1890 this contribution has been one dollar per member per year, out of which has been paid all the expense of conducting the vast business of this society.

The result of this simple plan of "co-operation and protection" has been the most phenomenal in development of any like concern in American history. The following statement taken from the records of the society shows the number of benefit certificates issued yearly since organization up to and including the year 1906:

1883	502	1895	55,123
1884	788	1896	65,000
1885	3,694	1897	68,829
1886	4,706	1898	92,911
1887	8,139	1899	135,644
1888	11,943	1900	142,864
1889	19,350	1901	133,115
1890	12,354	1902	94,068
1891	14,384	1903	63,158
1892	25,139	1904	81,718
1893	24,385	1905	103,254
1894	38,563	1906	132,729

From January 1, to July 1, 1907, there have been written 81,268 certificates, making a grand total of certificates written in this society from its organization down to July 1, 1907, 1,414,852.

The society has had a most successful career financially, as well as in its growth and influence as a fraternal society. Its plan of payment of death losses has always provided ample means for the prompt settlement of all death claims, and since its organization it has paid out in death losses the magnificent sum of more than \$59,000,000.

The first member to die in this society was Mr. Ab. Mayer, of Davenport, Iowa, on July 14, 1884.

The average age of the membership of the society is 38.23 years.

The death rate for the last ten years per one thousand members is as follows: 1897, 4.35; 1898, 4.32; 1899, 4.91; 1900, 4.64; 1901, 4.84; 1902, 4.84; 1903, 5.03; 1904, 5.65; 1905, 5.43; 1906, 5.48.

It accepts to membership in this society male white persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, except that if the applicant be over forty-one years of age he cannot carry benefits to exceed \$2,000. All applicants for membership are required to pay a membership fee of five dollars, and the cost of medical examination, varying from \$1.25 to \$2.25.

Its field work is under the management of the head consul of the society, who appoints a state deputy head consul for each state, who in turn appoints district deputy head consuls for certain territory or districts in a state, who give personal attention to the

details of securing members for the local lodges in the various localities.

The financial management of the society is under the control of a board of directors, consisting of five members, while the head clerk is the recording and accounting officer. The head banker has the custody of the funds and no money can be paid out by him, except upon orders signed by the head consul, the head clerk and at least three members of the board of directors.

In the adoption of social members only no medical examination fee is required. Payment by members to the mortuary fund is according to rates established by the head camp and are graded according to the age at the time of joining the society. The rates do not increase with advancing age, and during recent years it has not been necessary for the board of directors to levy an assessment each month in order to meet the current death losses.

Certificates are issued in this society in the amounts of \$500; \$1,000; \$1,500; \$2,000; and \$3,000, as the applicant may desire.

The officers of local camps are consul (presiding officer), past consul, clerk (recording officer), banker, adviser, escort, watchman, sentry, board of three managers, and examining physicians.

Great care is taken in determining the physical soundness of applicants for membership in this society. Each applicant is examined as to his physical condition by the local camp physician, after which the application is forwarded to a state physician who reviews the examination of the local examiner, and such state physician, after passing upon the applicant by either approving or rejecting him, forwards the application, together with the record of such approval or rejection to the board of supreme medical directors, which board is composed of three eminent physicians, selected and appointed by the executive council of the society. This supreme Medical board again reviews the

application so far as it relates to the medical examination and opinion of both the local examiner and the State examiner, and action of the supreme medical board, either in approving or rejecting the application, is final, except in emergency cases only, when the executive council, for special cause, may ask a reconsideration and examination of the applicant by the supreme medical board.

The head camp of the society is held at whatever place in the jurisdiction the preceding head camp selects.

At the time of the organization of Pioneer Camp, No. 1, on January 5, 1883, the first provisional head camp was organized, and the following officers elected:

Head consul, J. C. Root, Lyons, Iowa; head banker, Louis G. Blaine, Lyons, Iowa; head clerk, Albert Hilton, Lyons, Iowa.

The first regular head camp, however, was held in June, 1883, at Fulton, Illinois. At this head camp five local camps were represented by fifteen delegates, and the first fundamental laws were adopted. The head camp officers elected at this meeting were as follows:

Head consul, J. C. Root, Lyons, Iowa; head adviser, E. D. Leland, Lenark, Illinois; head clerk, Albert Hilton, Lyons, Iowa; head banker, A. M. Green, Mt. Carroll, Illinois; head escort, G. B. Jackson, Tampico, Illinois; head watchman, Harrison Frazier, Lyons, Iowa; head sentry, G. Guernsey, Erie, Illinois; head managers, C. C. Farmer, Mt. Carroll, Illinois; S. H. Zimmerman, Polo, Illinois; J. J. Ward, Sterling, Illinois.

The seventh head camp met in Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of November 11, 1890. There were nine hundred and sixty-one delegates present, including the head officers, and standing committees, representing 42,300 members and 1,491 camps.

Prior to this head camp meeting, serious differences of opinion existed among the then head officers as to methods of conducting the business of the society. At this meeting the

entire fundamental laws of the society were re-written and the society itself practically reorganized on new and different lines and plans of operation; none of the former head officers were re-elected, but new officers were selected from the head camp delegates to conduct the business of the society, upon the new plan and under the laws promulgated and adopted at this meeting. In this head camp laws were adopted providing for the holding of state head camps, and more complete and satisfactory form of representative government. The officers elected at this head camp were as follows:

Head consul, William A. Northcott, Greenville, Illinois; head adviser, H. C. Hedges, Lansing, Michigan; head clerk, Charles Wesley Hawes, Rock Island, Illinois; head banker, David C. Zink, Grand Island, Nebraska; head physician, Doctor Frank Swallow, Valley Falls, Kansas; head chaplain, Reverend F. F. Farmiloe, Genoa, Illinois; head escort, W. H. Dawson, Slayton, Minnesota; head sentry, L. E. Mentch, Carey, Illinois; head watchman, L. H. Hasse, Elgin, Illinois; board of directors, M. W. Matthews, Urbana, Illinois; A. R. Talbot, Lincoln, Nebraska; J. W. White, Tampico, Illinois; C. T. Heydecker, Waukegan, Illinois; J. G. Johnson, Peabody, Kansas.

The eighth head camp was held in Omaha, Nebraska, in February, 1892. There were present one hundred and twenty-seven head officers, members of standing committees, and delegates, representing 1,782 camps, with a membership of 68,667. At this head camp the Royal Neighbors of America was, by resolution, accepted as the ladies' auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America.

In the interim between the meeting of the head camp at Springfield, Illinois, and the head camp at Omaha, Nebraska, Honorable M. W. Mathews, chairman of the board of directors, died, and General Jasper N. Reece, of Springfield, Illinois, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Mathews.

The ninth head camp met in convention in Madison, Wisconsin, in June, 1895, with two hundred and seventy-three delegates, head officers and committeemen, representing 2,840 camps and 125,667 members. At this head camp meeting the basis of representation on account of the rapid growth of the society was changed to one delegate for each 1,000 members, and one delegate at large from each state. Among the great questions considered at this meeting was that of the change of rates of the society; and the establishment or recognition of the forester teams in camp work.

The tenth head camp met in Dubuque, Iowa, in June, 1897, with two hundred and forty-two delegates, head officers and committeemen present, representing 208,292 members and 4,436 camps. At this head camp meeting the laws were changed so as to provide for twelve head physicians, instead of five as formerly.

At this head camp there was created the executive council of the society, composed of the head consul, the head clerk, and board of directors, to which body the head consul and other officers of the society might at any time appeal for counsel and advice in any matter pertaining to the administration of the affairs of his department.

The eleventh head camp met in Kansas City, Missouri, in June, 1899, with three hundred and eighty-three delegates, head officers and members of standing committees present, representing 5,863 camps and 339,364 members. At this meeting the board of head physicians was increased from twelve to nineteen, and the board of auditors was increased from three to five.

At the July, 1899, meeting of the executive council, following the Kansas City head camp, J. W. White resigned as director and was appointed general attorney. At the same meeting the executive council appointed E. E. Murphy, of Leavenworth, Kansas, as director to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. White.

The twelfth head camp met in St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 11, 1901, with six hundred and twenty-nine delegates, head officers and members of standing committees in attendance, representing 8,980 camps and 568,181 members. At this head camp meeting the number of head physicians was increased to provide one head physician for each state. The basis of representation in this growing society was again modified and fixed at one delegate for each 1,500 members or major fraction thereof, in good standing, in camps of each state, on January 1, preceding head camp. At this head camp the question of rates was again considered, and a committee was appointed to employ actuaries and assistance to consider carefully the question in all of its phases and the condition of the society, and make its report to the executive council which in turn should publish it to the jurisdiction. At this meeting Honorable William A. Northcott, who had served so long and faithfully as head consul of the society, announced to the head camp and the jurisdiction, that because of the condition of his health it would be impossible for him to accept another term of office from the society, and he would not, therefore, be a candidate to succeed himself at the end of the term which he was elected to serve.

In the interim between the twelfth head camp and the thirteenth head camp occurred the great discussion throughout the jurisdiction among the officers and members of local and subordinate camps the question of readjustment of rates, based upon the report of the committee appointed at the St. Paul head camp, so that the thirteenth head camp, which convened at Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 16, 1903, might be considered the most critical and important head camp thus far in the history of the society. At this head camp five hundred and thirty-seven delegates, head officers and members of standing committees were present, representing 10,589 camps with a membership of

682,629. The most important matter before it is head camp was the discussion and action upon the report of the St. Paul head camp committee on revision of rates. After several days deliberate consideration and earnest and oft-times bitter debate the head camp adopted a new table of rates for the society, which has been the basis of mortuary contribution to the society's benefit fund by its members since, and is as follows:

Age at Nearest B'dy	\$500	\$1000	\$1500	\$2000	\$3000
18 to 25 years inc.	\$ .25	\$ .50	\$ .75	\$1.00	\$1.50
26 to 27 years inc.	.30	.55	.85	1.10	1.65
28 to 29 years inc.	.30	.60	.90	1.20	1.80
30 to 31 years inc.	.35	.65	1.00	1.30	1.95
32 to 33 years inc.	.35	.70	1.05	1.40	2.10
34 to 35 years inc.	.40	.75	1.15	1.50	2.25
36 to 37 years inc.	.40	.80	1.20	1.60	2.40
38 to 39 years inc.	.45	.85	1.30	1.70	2.55
40 to 41 years inc.	.45	.90	1.35	1.80	2.70
42 to 43 years inc.	.50	.95	1.45	1.90	
44 to 45 years inc.	.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	

At this head camp Honorable William A. Northcott, head consul, in carrying out his announced purpose and plan at the previous head camp, declined to be a candidate for re-election, and Adolphus R. Talbot, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was elected head consul to succeed him.

At this head camp the office of past head consul was created, and former head consul William A. Northcott was made past consul, and member of the head camp of this society for life, out of recognition for the distinguished services he had rendered the society.

The fourteenth head camp met at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 20, 1905, with four hundred and seventy-six delegates, representing 10,736 camps and 693,425 members. At this meeting of the head camp the law was changed so that the head camp met triennially instead of biennially, and special rates were provided for hazardous occupations. The following officers were elected at this head camp meeting, who are its present head officers:

Head consul, Adolphus R. Talbot, Lincoln, Nebraska; past head consul, William A. Northcott, Springfield, Illinois; head clerk, Charles W. Hawes, Rock Island, Illinois; head adviser, Dan B. Horne, Davenport, Iowa; head banker, C. H. McNider, Mason City, Iowa; head escort, C. D. Elliott, Seattle, Washington; head sentry, W. E. Beachley, Hagerstown, Maryland; head watchman, George L. Bowman, Kingfisher, Oklahoma; head chaplain, Reverend Henry N. Dunning, Albany, New York. Board of directors—R. R. Smith, Brookfield, Missouri; R. E. Murphy, Leavenworth, Kansas; George W. Reilly, Danville, Illinois; A. N. Bort, Beloit, Wisconsin; C. J. Byrns, Ishpeming, Michigan. Supreme medical board—Doctor E. L. Kerns, chairman, Rock Island, Illinois; Doctor F. A. Smith, Rock Island, Illinois; Doctor B. E. Jones, Rock Island, Illinois. Appointed—F. O. Van Galder, editor, Rock Island, Illinois; B. D. Smith, general attorney, Mankato, Minnesota; Truman Plantz, general attorney, Warsaw, Illinois.

The next triennial head camp of this society will meet in June, 1908 at Peoria Illinois.

The head camp meeting in Omaha, in 1892, directed the head officers to move the head office from Fulton to Rock Island. For nearly five years every effort on the part of the head officers to comply with the directions of the head camp in such removal was thwarted by the activity of the citizens of Fulton by injunction proceedings and restraining orders of the various courts against such removal. In the fullness of time, however, hearings were had upon all such proceedings and the Court's final decision authorized the head officers to carry out the expressed wish and will of the head camp in removing such head office to Rock Island. The removal occurred in September, 1897, and the new and commodious head office building was completed and occupied by the society some two years later, since which



time this great society has been a part of the life and business activity of Rock Island County.

The head office of this society at Rock Island, Illinois, has one of the most commodious and appropriate fire-proof buildings of modern times. It has been constructed at an expense of more than \$350,000, is thoroughly equipped with steel furniture and file boxes, and is one of the safest and strongest buildings that can possibly be constructed of stone, brick and steel beams. It is beautifully frescoed, supplied with all modern conveniences and equipment, and the apartments are so adjusted with reference to each other as to best facilitate the great work of this society. In this building are the offices of the head officers, as well as the offices of the general attorneys, with their complete law library, and the offices of the editor and supreme medical board. The arrangement of the rooms and offices in this commodious four-story building is so complete as to light, ventilation and other essentials, as to make it everything that can be desired in the way of a complete modern office building. Here are employed approximately two hundred and fifty clerks, stenographers and heads of departments, in connection with the business of this society.

No one can measure the great power and influence of the Modern Woodmen among the people of this country. Its influence and effect upon the growth and development of Rock Island County, and its helpfulness to the business enterprises thereof is of such lasting benefit that the establishment of its permanent home in Rock Island is a continuing pleasure and satisfaction to the people.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA.

The Royal Neighbors of America, as a fraternal beneficiary society, was twelve years old in March, 1907, charter having been granted March 21, 1895.

The first camp in the society—or rather the body from which the first camp of the society sprung—was organized in December, 1888, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, as a “ladies auxiliary” to Hazel Camp, No. 171, Modern Woodmen of America. The stated purpose of this auxiliary was “to entertain and help increase the membership and encourage the building up of the society of the Modern Woodmen of America.” The originators were the wives of the neighbors of Hazel camp. They met once a month, giving socials and entertainments, and these meetings continued until October, 1899, when the ladies determined to form a secret fraternal society to be officered exclusively by ladies.

Thereupon, committees were appointed and a ritual and constitution were prepared. These were submitted and approved at a meeting held January 2, 1890. Articles of incorporation were next drawn, and on April 25, 1890, the Royal Neighbors of America (this being the name selected for the new society) was incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa. The society's underlying principles were named as faith, modesty, courage, unselfishness and endurance, and their motto *ex j'de fortis*, which means “firm by faith.”

The incorporators of the Royal Neighbors of America, who were also designated in the articles of incorporation as the first supreme officers, were:

Miss Lillian Huff, Mrs. M. L. Kirkland, Mrs. M. B. Hayden, Mrs. S. Hennessey, Mrs. E. F. Belknap, Mrs. J. A. Swanson and Mrs. M. M. Filbert.

The first supreme camp meeting of the Royal Neighbors of America was held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on June 26, 1890, more for the purpose of completing the organization of the supreme camp, for there were as yet no local camps.

On July 3, 1890, this supreme camp met again and reorganized into the first local

camp, which was given the name of Lilly Camp, No. 1, of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

At a special meeting of the supreme camp, held April 7, 1891, a resolution was unanimously adopted providing for the admission of men as members of the Royal Neighbors of America. After this was done the society began to show signs of life, and when the first regular supreme camp meeting was called to order in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the first Wednesday of January, 1896, six camps were represented, with an aggregate membership of three hundred. The first regular supreme officers were elected at this session.

The second annual meeting of the supreme camp was held at Omaha, Nebraska, January 4 and 5, 1893, when there were eighteen camps, with eight hundred and fifty members represented. At this meeting it was decided to make the society more than a social and fraternal auxiliary of Modern Woodmen of America by establishing a benefit or insurance department, and committees were appointed to report at the next supreme session.

At the fourth supreme camp meeting, held in Peoria, Illinois, January 3, 4 and 5, 1894, there were forty-five local camps, with 1,567 members, reported in good standing. After hearing the report of the committee on benefit plan, appointed at the Omaha meeting, the supreme camp decided that in order to complete this department it would be necessary for the society to reincorporate in Illinois. To do this the society was compelled to change the head office of the society from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to some city in Illinois, and upon ballot, the city of Peoria was chosen.

The matter of putting into operation the insurance feature was left with the board of supreme managers. The board appointed a beneficiary committee consisting of Major C. W. Hawes, head clerk, and directors J. G. Johnson and J. W. White of the Modern Woodmen Society, and under the supervision of these gentlemen, the Royal Neighbors of America reincorporated and estab-

lished its benefit department substantially as it is today, the new charter being issued by the Illinois insurance department on March 21, 1895.

The Royal Neighbors rank high in comparison with the largest fraternal beneficiary societies in the United States, and has greatest prominence over all insurance societies officered by women.

The society has more than 5,000 local camps in the thirty-four states comprising its jurisdiction.

The Royal Neighbors of America has paid out in benefits, since the date of its organization, \$4,283,527.94 to the beneficiaries of its deceased members.

Death rate per 1,000 members in 1907 was 5.7, and the cost per \$1,000, at age thirty-five, was \$4.95.

The average age of the beneficiary membership in 1907 was thirty-seven years. During the year 1907 there were seven hundred and twenty-eight deaths, and the amount of \$730,800.44 was paid out in benefits.

It was necessary to collect only nine assessments during 1907.

This society admits to membership beneficiary and social members of the Modern Woodmen of America and any white woman of good character, whether related to a Modern Woodman or not.

Only women can hold elective offices, either in the supreme or local camps, with the exception in local camps that men may hold the position of manager or physician.

The supreme officers of the society are elected biennially by a majority vote of the delegates in session, one delegate representing a membership of 1,000. The last session was held in Chicago in May, 1908.

The number of certificates issued thus far this year exceeds all former records, and as our suspensions are so few the additions are almost a clear gain.

The supreme camp held at Chicago in May, 1908, made many changes in its laws, one of

the most important being the consolidation of the social and beneficiary departments and changing the location of the supreme office from Peoria to Rock Island, Illinois. The beneficiary department was formerly in the same building with the Modern Woodmen head office, but more room necessitated a change, and now the effects of the two offices heretofore located at Peoria and Rock Island are now installed in offices occupying the entire sixth floor of the Safety Building.

At the supreme camp an appropriation was made to the amount of \$75,000, for the purpose of erecting a supreme office building, which is likely to be started within the next two or three years.

This society is now the largest of all women's fraternal beneficiary societies; it is officered entirely by women, except that two men are members of the beneficiary committee. Its president is Mrs. Lina M. Collins, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and its secretary Miss Myrtle E. Dade, of Rock Island, Illinois.

### SECRET SOCIETIES.

#### MASONIC HISTORY OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

The first organization of Masonic lodges in this vicinity was a dispensation granted by the grand master of the grand lodge of the State of Illinois, in 1847, to Cambridge lodge at Cambridge, Illinois. The nearest lodges being St. Johns, No. 13, at Peru, LaSalle County; Henderson, No. 26, Knox County; and Monmouth, No. 37, Warren County. A charter was granted October 4, 1847, to Cambridge Lodge as No. 49, meetings to be held at Cambridge and Rock Island alternately. January 26, 1848, in compliance with the unanimous request of Cambridge Lodge, a dispensation was granted to meet regularly at Rock Island. The distance between Cambridge and Rock Island—thirty miles, and by team—was quite arduous and tiresome.

Steps were taken May 18, 1848, to form a new lodge at Rock Island, for Rock Island County. When the name was considered, there was a diversity of opinion. Among the names proposed were Mississippi, Rock Island, Barrett, Buford, Illinois and Larely; none commanding a majority, Doctor James W. Brackett proposed the name of Trio, in honor of Rock Island, Moline and Camden Mills—now Milan—and the name of Trio was adopted. June 1, 1848, a dispensation was granted to Trio lodge, Rock Island, Illinois, and October 3, 1848, was chartered as Trio Lodge, No. 57.

May 3, 1855, Fort Armstrong Lodge, No. 186, was organized by members from Trio Lodge, but March 12, 1863, surrendered its charter and consolidated with Trio Lodge. In June and July, 1870, twenty brethren withdrew from Trio Lodge to organize Rock Island Lodge, No. 658. Trio Lodge at its organization had seventeen members; now it has a membership of two hundred and fifty-four.

#### ROCK ISLAND LODGE, NO. 658, A. F. & A. M.

This lodge was organized and a dispensation was issued June 29, 1870, and was chartered October 6, 1870, the first officers were:

Morris Rosenfield, worshipful master; Charles A. Benser, senior warden; Milton G. Mills, junior warden; H. H. Mayo, treasurer; George P. Frysinger, secretary; J. W. Whitmarsh, senior deacon; Ben C. Frysinger, junior deacon; J. S. Drake, senior steward; James F. Copp, junior steward; Thomas Thornton, tyler.

The lodge had twenty-six charter members, eleven of which are still alive. The lodge now has two hundred and sixteen active members and two honorary members.

#### BARRETT CHAPTER, NO. 18, R. A. M.

Barrett Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered September 30, 1853. October 28

1904, the name of the chapter was changed to Rock Island Chapter. The chapter meets in Masonic Temple the first Tuesday of each month. The membership now (1908) is two hundred and fifty.

LAUREL COMMANDERY, NO. 18, KNIGHTS  
TEMPLAR, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS.

First met under dispensation January 10, 1866, a petition having previously been presented to the grand commander of the grand commandery of the State of Illinois by Virgil M. Blanding, Palestine Commandery, No. 14, Pennsylvania; John Lin Ramsey, Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Illinois; William B. Grenelle, Blaney Commandery, No. 5, Illinois; O. S. McNeil, LaFayette Commandery, No. 16, Indiana; C. Stewart Ells, DeMolay Commandery, No. 16, Indiana; W. E. Bowman, Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Illinois; I. B. N. Bross, Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Illinois; D. S. Rawson, Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Illinois; D. W. Lininger, Ottawa Commandery, No. 10, Illinois; and recommended by Peoria Commandery, No. 3, Peoria, Illinois.

The following officers were appointed by the grand commander of the grand commandery of the State of Illinois: Virgil Marion Blanding, eminent commander; John Linn Ramsey, generalissimo; William B. Grenelle, captain general; the other officers being appointed by the eminent commander. October 23, 1866, the commandery was constituted and granted its charter. Its name was changed October 23, 1901, its thirty-fifth anniversary, to Rock Island Commandery, No. 18, and at present has a membership of two hundred and eighty-five.

ROCK ISLAND CHAPTER, NO. 269, ORDER OF  
EASTERN STAR.

Rock Island Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, was instituted at Masonic Temple, April 13, 1894. Mrs. Eva M. Conover, the organizer, was chosen worthy matron; G. F.

Kramer, worthy patron; and Mrs. Maria B. Kinyon, associate matron.

The first corps of officers were: Secretary, Lillie K. Williams; treasurer, Meta DeSoland; conductress, Zetta Gilman; associate conductress, Anna Harrington; Adah, Vashti Bollman; Ruth, Myra Arnold; Esther, Clara Woltmann; Martha, Ada Huntoon; Electa, Kate A. Tuller; chaplain, Sarah Campbell; warder, Mary Rhodenbaugh; organist, Elizabeth Volk; sentinel, L. W. Mitchell.

In August of the same year the secretary removed from the city, her place being filled by Vashti Bollman. In October the charter was granted; the chapter numbered two hundred and sixty-nine.

The first corps of officers elected after the chapter was chartered was:

Worthy matron, Eva M. Conover; worthy patron, G. F. Kramer; associate matron, Maria B. Kinyon; secretary, Vashti Bollman; treasurer, Martha Hyde; conductress, Myra Arnold; associate conductress, Henrietta Kramer; Adah, Mary Pratt; Ruth, Zetta Gilman; Esther, Jennie Johnston; Martha, Ada Huntoon; Electa, Kate Tuller; marshal, Sarah Green; chaplain, Addie Elliott; warder, Mary Rhodenbaugh; organist, Elizabeth Volk; sentinel, N. J. Sandstrom.

EUREKA LODGE, NO. 69, A. F. & A. M., MILAN,  
ILLINOIS.

Charter was issued to Eureka Lodge, No. 69, on petition of brethren, on the fourth day of October, 1849, as follows:

John Gilmore, William Feris, J. M. Plumb, F. B. Gilmore, Louis Kinyon, James Dickson, William Kelly, James M. Gilmore and N. D. Bradley.

After the lodge had done business for eight or ten years a state of lethargy appeared and the charter was suspended and returned to the grand lodge. Finally the members of Eureka Lodge reorganized for work, consisting of brethren William Feris, Riley Hayford, D. C. Roundy, John B. Davidson,

William Wallace, N. D. Bradley, Frank H. Harris, George M. Dickson, James Dickson, Alexander Owens, William Dickson and John Dickson; and the first communication was held on the fourth day of October, 1866, when Eureka Lodge started anew.

The next trouble confronting Eureka was fire. The next year, 1867, fire consumed the most of the business part of the village of Milan—then Camden Mills—, and Eureka Lodge paraphernalia was all consumed; the charter, however, was saved.

CORDOVA LODGE, NO. 543, A. F. & A. M., CORDOVA, ILLINOIS.

A dispensation was granted January 29, 1867, and a charter October 1, 1867. The charter members were D. H. Mattice, John K. Glasscock, Orville N. Whitford, Thomas Karr, J. L. Perkins, George Bryan, George Ege, Leonard Zyle, Jesse S. Dailey, B. F. Simpson, D. F. Zimmerman, A. R. Sill, R. K. McCormack, T. F. Abbott, J. E. Abbott, D. Nicewanger and Abraham Bolinger.

The present membership is twenty-nine.

SILVIS LODGE, NO. 898, A. F. & A. M., SILVIS, ILLINOIS.

Silvis Lodge was granted a dispensation May 18, 1907, and their charter November 1, 1908, at which time they had a large class in the Master Mason's degree, working from nine o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night.

The ladies of the Baptist Church served the three meals, in a good home made way; substantial, bountiful and varied, with fried chicken each time. In the lodge work Rock Island and Moline brethren assisted. They had twenty-seven charter members. Their present membership is thirty-one.

DORIC LODGE, NO. 319, A. F. & A. M., MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

Doric Lodge, No. 319, A. F. & A. M., was organized at Moline, Illinois, May 11, 1859,

Dillon, Horatio G. Nourse, Luke E. Hemenway, DeWitt C. Marshall, Robert H. Graham, Benjamin R. Towndrow, William G. Boswell, by the following charter members: John B. Amos Gould and Charles A. Brenan.

A charter was granted October 5, 1859.

The membership at present is two hundred and fifty-four.

ANDALUSIA LODGE, NO. 516, A. F. & A. M., ANDALUSIA, ILLINOIS.

Date of dispensation, August 24, 1866; date of charter, October 1, 1867. Charter members: B. F. Eby, F. M. Boney, S. B. Buffum, I. T. Walker, John Buffum, A. P. Roberts, F. A. Cobb, J. W. Ballard, Rinnah Wells, G. T. Connor, M. V. Spencer, James Cozad.

The present membership is thirty-seven.

The first worshipful master under dispensation was B. F. Eby; senior warden, J. W. Ballard; and junior warden, F. A. Cobb. Stated communications are held Tuesday on or before full moon.

VALLEY LODGE, NO. 547, A. F. & A. M., COAL VALLEY, ILLINOIS.

Can not give the date of their dispensation, as some of their records were destroyed by fire. The date of the charter is October 1, 1867. The charter members were: James R. Rosenberry, William Wayne, William Meanor, B. R. Blackfan, Robert Lee, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, L. H. Trego, S. Blackfan. The number of members at present is sixty-six. Stated communications Friday on or before full moon.

PHILO LODGE, NO. 436, A. F. & A. M., PORT BYRON, ILLINOIS.

Charter was issued October 4, 1865. The charter members were: E. M. Hickox, Samuel R. Allen, D. G. Comstock, W. J. Sheppard, Henry Sadoris, T. D. Temple, James B. Temple, H. B. Young, George P. Gates, H. W. Guest, E. H. Johnston, Wilson Fleming.



Henry Saddoris is still a member--eighty-nine years old. He was made a Master Mason, in 1839, in Ohio. Have seventy-nine members at present.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

The national order was first instituted in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1819, by five people; a blacksmith by the name of Wiley being the head organizer. The first local lodge instituted and chartered was Rock Island Lodge, No. 18, in 1850; some of the older members being Washington L. Sweeney, Charles B. Knox, William Bell, W. T. Norris, Henry Burgower, Ernest Krell, Charles Engel, Cyrus Churchill, Jacob Huber, John B. Hawley and W. T. Magill.

Ucal Lodge, No. 608, was chartered in 1876; the older members being Jonas Bear, Reuben Bollman, Frank Bahnsen, Benjamin Hartz, Herbert Scott, John South and Charles Hodgson. The Odd Fellowship Association have a strong bond of help or assistance, which they contribute to the dead or sick. Rock Island Lodge, No. 18, giving a burial fund of eighty-five dollars, and a weekly sick benefit fund of four dollars. Ucal Lodge, No. 608, giving a burial fund of two hundred and ten dollars, and a weekly sick benefit fund of three dollars.

The membership of the two lodges at the present time is four hundred and six.

#### REBEKAH LODGE, NO. 73, LADIES' AUXILIARY.

The founder of this auxiliary to Odd Fellowship, was Schuyler Colfax, who later was vice-president of the United States. It was organized in 1850, fifty-eight years ago.

#### ROYAL ARCANUM.

Rock Island Council, No. 1952, Royal Arcanum, was organized September 3, 1902, in Math's Hall, with twenty-eight charter members. First officers elected were: Regent, Will A. Robb; vice-regent, William

Ranson; orator, Frank H. First; past regent, H. H. Robb; secretary, S. E. Mattison, junior; collector, Joseph F. Schneider; treasurer, A. S. Rasmussen; chaplain, Reverend Thomas J. Shuey; guide, Albert Myers; warden, Benjamin E. Robb; sentry, William M. Johnson; trustees, Phil S. Wilcher, William Emig, Charles Oswald; representative grand council, H. H. Robb; alternate, Will A. Robb.

Meetings are held in Math's Hall, the second and fourth Friday nights of each month.

The present membership is eighty-two.

#### PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES.

##### THE ROMAN RIFLES.

Was mustered into the State service, by Colonel David O. Reid, adjutant-general commanding, September 5, 1877, numbering about seventy-five men. The first officers elected were: William P. Butler, captain; Charles W. Hawes, first lieutenant; John M. Reticker, second lieutenant.

Shortly after the organization of the company it was assigned to the Fourteenth Battalion of Infantry, Illinois National Guard, and designated as Company D. First Lieutenant Charles W. Hawes was elected captain, vice-captain William P. Butler promoted to lieutenant-colonel commanding the Fourteenth Battalion, with headquarters at Rock Island.

The company was one of the finest in the State, having distinguished itself for precision in military tactics and for soldierly conduct generally. The Rifle team made the best record of any team in the Second Brigade and won the prize for marksmanship offered by the Second Brigade, in 1880, and also prizes in contests in other States.

In 1879, a corporation was formed by members of the company, and purchased a lot and erected thereon a three-story brick Armory building, sixty by one hundred and fifty feet, at an expense of \$15,000. It is said to be the finest Armory ever built and

owned by a single military company up to that date; it is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Sixteenth Street, and is still occupied by the company and the Rock Island Division of Naval Reserves.

The Armory Building is now owned by the City of Rock Island, the building has been enlarged and part is used for council chambers, city offices and police station.

Company D was assigned to the Sixth Regiment of Infantry in 1882, and designated as Company A in 1908. The company served in the Spanish American War, in General Miles expedition to Cuba and Porto Rico, giving excellent service.

#### THIRD BRIGADE, ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD, MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

The Brigade officers are as follows. Brigadier-General, Edward Kittilsen, commanding; Major Elmer E. Morgan, adjutant-general.

#### SIXTH INFANTRY, ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS.

Colonel Will T. Channon, commanding; Captain John J. Cairns, regimental adjutant.

Company A, Rock Island—Captain, Edward Dunavin; first lieutenant, Walter E. Hart; second lieutenant, Bernard A. Koch.

Company F, Moline—Captain, Marvin H. Lyon, commanding; first lieutenant, Charles Laurin; second lieutenant, Roland E. Willis.

Rock Island Division, Naval Reserves—Lieutenant, Samuel R. Davis, commanding; lieutenant junior grade, Maurice DeKay;

Moline Division, Naval Reserves—Lieutenant, George T. Kemmerling, commanding; lieutenant, junior grade, George Gibbs.

Helen Gould Auxiliary, No. 7, United Spanish War Veterans.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

In compiling the history of Rock Island County, it would not be complete without making mention of the Grand Army Posts, and their auxiliaries. Shortly after the close

of the Civil War, the thought came in the minds of the soldiers that were separating to do something that would keep them near together, and the Grand Army of the Republic was instituted.

Doctor B. F. Stephenson, of Springfield, Illinois, was the founder. The first Post was organized at Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 1866. Honorable M. F. Kanan was its first commander.

Wednesday evening, June 6, 1866, a meeting was held in the County Clerk's office of the late officers and soldiers of the United States volunteers. Major S. C. Plummer read the constitution of the Grand Army of the Republic; and it was decided to organize a post.

Captain J. A. Jordan, Major S. C. Plummer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. Beardsley, Major James M. Beardsley, and Captain James F. Copp were elected delegates to the first Soldiers and Sailors convention held in Illinois, and which convened in Springfield June 12, 1866. That evening they elected the following officers: Major, Samuel C. Plummer, district commander; Captain John Peetz, adjutant-general; W. C. Blackburn, quartermaster; Captain David Hillier, post-commander; Captain Lester D. Phelps, adjutant; James L. Hodges, quartermaster-sergeant.

June 24, 1866, the comrades received their charter, being designated as Post No. 24. At the first organization of the various Posts, no names were given; only numbers. Afterwards names were given in connection with number of the different Posts; the names being in honorable recognition of some prominent and favorite soldier.

Following this meeting a great many of the old soldiers joined the Post, and arranged by-laws and constitution. All went well for a year when the general interest lagged and they finally threw up their charter and was not reorganized until May 30, 1883, when the following officers were elected: Major H. C. Connelly, commander; Louis M. Buford

senior vice-commander; E. H. Bowman, junior vice-commander; John M. Reitcker, quartermaster; J. M. Montgomery, officer of the day; Major Samuel C. Plummer, surgeon; L. V. Eckhart, officer of the guards; A. H. Hampton, chaplain; Comrade Harry Abel was appointed adjutant; J. M. Beardsley, second quartermaster-sergeant; Levi Harson, sergeant-major; and the following name adopted: "Major General John Buford Post, No. 243."

The objects of the Grand Army has been changed from time to time at their annual meetings for the greatest number interested, many of the legislative acts have been brought about by the Grand Army, and much good accomplished by them, for the great principles involved.

The following is a list of the Posts of the County, and year of organization:

Major General John Buford Post, No. 243, Rock Island, 1874; Graham Post, No. 312, Moline, 1868; William McDaniel Post, No. 595, Hampton, 1868; Alford Bing Post, No. 492, Andalusia, 1886; William L. Walker Post, No. 385, Coal Valley, 1886; J. W. Muse Post, No. 369, Milan, 1886; Reynolds, No. 559, Reynolds, 1886.

Eligibility to membership, includes soldiers and sailors of the United States army, navy or marine corps, who served between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865, in the war for the suppression of the rebellion; those having been honorably discharged therefrom after such service; and of such State regiments as were called into active service, and subject to the orders of the United States general officers between the dates mentioned; shall be eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. No person shall be eligible to membership who has at any time borne arms against the United States. No officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use the organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its

meetings, nor shall any nominations for political office be made.

The objects to be accomplished by this organization are: To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together soldiers, sailors and marines, who united to suppress the late rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the Dead; to assist such former comrades in arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen; to maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for and fidelity to its constitution and laws, to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incite insurrection, treason or rebellion; or in any manner impairs the efficiency or permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

The Major General John Buford Post, No. 243, was highly complimented by one of its members—Edwin H. Buck, in 1906—being elected Department commander of the State of Illinois, and with the boys was dubbed "Private Buck."

## THE PRESS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

To Henry C. McGrew, a native of Ireland, who came to this country in 1818 with his father, belongs the credit of issuing the first newspaper published in Rock Island County. He came to Rock Island in 1839, and about the middle of August of that year started the *Rock Island Banner* and *Stephenson Gazette*, which suspended publication in the Fall of 1841, when the press and type were moved to Geneseo. The paper was neutral in politics until 1840, when, during the presidential campaign of that year, it advocated the principles of the Democratic party.

## THE UPPER MISSISSIPPIAN.

After the *Banner* began its support of the Democratic party, the Whigs felt the need of a paper during the political excitement of 1840, and accordingly in the early part of October of that year the *Upper Mississippian* was started; its editors and proprietors at first not being announced, but all communications were to be addressed to Daniel Crist.

The paper had an eventful career and its editorial columns were principally filled with personal quarrels. At times the paper failed to be published on account of lack of funds with which to purchase paper, and at one time it was suggested to buy muslin and print on that; the subscribers to wash and return it in time for the next issue; but the project was never carried out. On September 24, 1842, the press and type were replevined in the name of John G. Powers, and the paper was printed for that week in the *Gazette* office at Davenport. In November, 1842, a new press and type were purchased.

Among the people prominently connected with the *Upper Mississippian* during its career were: Daniel Crist; Doctor Silas Reed, who furnished the editorial; and Thomas Gregg. Harmon G. Reynolds purchased the paper from Crist in November, 1844, and changed the name to the *Upper Mississippian and Rock Island Republican*. It expired early in 1847.

## THE NORTHWESTERN ADVERTISER.

In 1845, the Whigs were again without a paper, and in November of that year, a prospectus was issued for a new paper to be known as the *Northwestern Advertiser*, edited and published by Doctor Horatio P. Gatchell, who came from Cincinnati, Ohio, as a Christian (Campbellite) preacher, and Miles W. Conway. The press was purchased at Dubuque, Iowa.

On the 12th of November Mr. Conway died, and this so discouraged Doctor Gratchell that

he sold the paper to General William Vanderer in May, 1846. Mr. Vanderer published the paper for about a year when he sold it to Messrs. Sanders and Davis, of the Davenport *Gazette*, who published it a few months and then sold it to F. R. Bennett, he changing the name to the *Rock Island Advertiser*.

Mr. Bennett continued the publication of the paper alone until 1856, when A. J. Brackett became an associate, the partnership lasting about a year, Mr. Brackett retiring.

In September, 1853, Mr. Bennett, the sole proprietor since Colonel Brackett's retirement, sold to Thomas R. Raymond and Oliver T. Wharton, who remained together until September 13, 1854, when Mr. Wharton assumed control and Mr. Raymond established a job office.

The *Tri-Weekly Advertiser* was started in December, 1853, and in 1855 Mr. Wharton started the *Daily Advertiser*, which was run until the Spring of 1858.

In 1856 Mr. Wharton formed a partnership with G. S. Hyatt, which did not last long. In August, 1856, Mr. Wharton sold the *Advertiser* to T. R. Raymond, and in December Doctor A. S. Paddock became interested with Mr. Raymond in its publication, which lasted about a year. The paper died in the Spring of 1858.

## THE LIBERTY BANNER.

A small, unpretentious sheet, advocating the abolition of slavery—*The Liberty Banner*—made its first appearance in the Spring of 1846; a most unfavorable time, and advocating a principle which both the great parties, the Democrats and the Whigs, were violently opposing. Its editor was C. B. Waite. The paper was printed in the office of the *Upper Mississippian*. It was published only a few months.

## THE ARGUS.

The first issue of the paper which afterward became *The Argus* was printed in a rear

room on the second floor of what was then the Whittaker and Everts building, located just east of the present Argus building, October 18, 1851. Although it was issued as the *Rock Island Republican*, it was Democratic in politics then, as now. The adoption of the present name was brought about in 1855 by the formation of an opposing political party, which took the one the paper bore. At the time it was established, as in the case with the publication for the most part since, the *Republican* was the only Democratic paper within a radius of one hundred miles. Its publication was begun by Fred S. Nichols and John W. Dunham. The outfit they used was a second hand one, purchased in St. Louis. Both partners had considerable experience in newspaper work previous to their coming here, and their acquaintance was formed while working together on the *St. Louis Intelligencer*. Nichols was a Northern man and Dunham a Southerner. The latter soon became tired of the undertaking and after six weeks he sold out to his partner. Nichols continued alone until November, 1852, when he sold a half interest to J. B. Danforth, junior, whose connection with the paper continued to a more or less extent till 1869.

Having acquired the interest of Nichols, in the Spring of 1853, Mr. Danforth continued as sole proprietor three years, when a share was purchased by Robert V. Shurley. The Buford Block, at the northeast corner of Second Avenue and Seventeenth Street, the first four-story building in the City, was completed in 1854, and the *Republican* took up quarters there which it retained seventeen years. July 13th of that year the first daily was issued. At that time there was no other daily nearer than Dubuque.

September 16, 1857, Pershing and Connelly (the latter Major H. C. Connelly), then publishers of the *Rock Islander*, bought the interest not owned by Mr. Shurley, and the title of the paper was changed to the *Rock*

*Islander and Argus*. A week after this transaction, Mr. Shurley sold out to Milton Jones, who remained on the paper until 1881. September 16, 1859, J. B. Danforth again secured an interest, buying out Pershing and Connelly, and the paper once more became *The Argus*. In the meantime, July 18, 1859, the daily was suspended and a tri-weekly begun. This was continued until September 1, 1861, when the daily was resumed.

In 1869 Robert F. McNeal bought out Mr. Danforth; but January 1, 1870, he, in turn, parted with his interests to J. S. Drake. Three years later The Argus Company was formed and incorporated with a capital stock of \$32,000. In 1871 the Buford heirs erected the Argus Block next the alley on the east side of East Seventeenth Street, and the paper went into its first exclusive quarters. Ten years later Richardson and Powers acquired the controlling interest in the company. For a brief year they waged a struggle against adversity. At the end of that time, in 1881, financial reverses necessitated a suspension of the paper. J. W. Potter, publisher of the *Freeport Bulletin*, came upon the scene and bought the newspaper, sending his son, the late J. W. Potter, junior, here to manage it. (See biography of J. W. Potter, as per index). The first issue under the new management appeared August 2, 1882. In May, 1885, the elder Mr. Potter died, and the son became sole owner. When Mr. Potter took charge of *The Argus* there was little but the name left. For a time the paper was issued in abbreviated form. As it made a place for itself in the community it was enlarged till it became an eight and even a nine-column folio. The size was reduced to the standard seven column quarto upon the installation of a Cox perfecting press in 1894. Since that time the regular issue has been of six and eight pages, but special editions of twelve, sixteen and even more pages have been issued from time to time.



In 1888 the old quarters on East Seventeenth Street were outgrown. During that season the building now occupied was purchased by Mr. Potter and became the paper's home.

The first *Daily Argus*, which was issued July 13, 1854, was an evening paper. December 17, 1855, it was changed to a morning paper and published as such till November 18, 1861, when evening publication was again resumed, and has been continued up to the present. A weekly has been published continuously since the founding of the paper in 1851.

During the years since *The Argus* was revived by Mr. Potter, it has earned rank among the first papers of its class in the state, and has maintained that position. Besides being the oldest paper in the County, it has been published under its present name longer than any other paper in the three cities. It was the first paper in the three cities to use a steam power press, the first to substitute therefor an electric motor, and the first to abandon the old cylinder press for one of the perfecting variety.

Upon the death of J. W. Potter, January 11, 1898, the management of *The Argus* became known as the J. W. Potter Publishing Company, by which the paper is now issued. The officers are. President, Mrs. J. W. Potter; vice-president, H. P. Simpson; secretary, and treasurer James J. LaVelle. Mr. Simpson is editor and Mr. LaVelle manager of the paper.

#### THE NEWS.

On the 10th of March, 1855, James Bowie issued a daily paper in Rock Island called *The News*. It was printed in Raymond's office in Gothic Block, and was of transient duration. It expired after an existence of one hundred and twenty-eight days. Bowie came here from Baltimore, and after leaving here edited a paper at Geneseo, Henry County. In September, 1858, he returned to

Moline, and in connection with Frank Linnehan started the *Citizen*, which soon failed, and in 1860 he was again at Geneseo, in connection with another short lived paper in that place, where he died in 1860.

#### THE COMMERCIAL.

On the 7th of July, 1858, C. W. Kirkland commenced the publication of a morning daily paper, and also a weekly, called the *Commercial*. In its first issue he said: "The *Commercial* will be the firm, zealous and consistent supporter of the principles of the Republican party." The printing was done at Raymond's office in the Gothic Block. It was discontinued on the 3rd of February, 1859, for the want of patronage.

#### THE ROCK ISLAND REGISTER.

T. J. Pickett launched a Republican paper—the *Rock Island Register*—February 9, 1859, and published from the start a weekly and tri-weekly, with Campbell W. Waite as associate editor, who continued his connection with the paper for about five months. June 6, 1860, C. W. Kirkland became a partner, the firm name being Pickett and Waite, editors and proprietors. January 9, 1861, Mr. Pickett having been elected to the Legislature, Mr. M. S. Barnes took charge of the editorial department, which he retained until the return of Mr. Pickett in August of that year.

The tri-weekly ceased publication some time in the Summer of 1861, and the weekly some time in 1862.

#### ROCK ISLAND UNION.

While the *Union* was first issued in Rock Island, November 5, 1862, the origin of the paper is to be sought in Moline, the daily and weekly *Union* representing a union of two Moline papers, and the transfer of the office of publication to Rock Island, the county seat, and the political and commercial centre of the county. In August, 1857, Ames

Smith, who came west from Lambertville, New Jersey, started the *Moline Workman*, a weekly which strongly espoused the anti-slavery cause. In February, 1857, he sold the plant to Robert H. Graham and Alfred Webster, who changed the name to the *Independent*, under which name it was continued by various owners. The ownership of the plant, after several changes, in 1862, finally reverted to Mr. Graham and his brother-in-law, Mr. I. A. Kuck. The latter remained in charge when Mr. Graham entered the military service at the outbreak of the Civil War, in which he rose to the rank of Colonel. His death followed soon after his resignation, in the Fall of 1862.

In November, 1862, Mr. Kuck discontinued the publication of the *Moline Independent*, and moved the plant into the old Mitchell and Lynde Block, in Rock Island, whence, on the fifth of the month, the first number of the *Weekly Union* was published, as an organ of the Republicans of the county. Mr. Graham died November 11, and the publication of the daily, which had already been launched in the expectation that he would be able to return to take part in the enterprise, was at once stopped. Mr. Kuck continued the publication of the *Weekly Union* until May, 1863, when he sold the property to Colonel M. S. Barnes, who at once resumed the publication of the *Daily Union* as an evening paper in addition to the weekly. The publication of the daily as an evening paper was continued until December, 1866, when Colonel Barnes, who had resumed possession after three months control by Major William Caffery, sold the property to Captain L. M. Haverstick, who came here from Maryland. When Captain Haverstick took possession the daily was changed to a morning paper. He subsequently bought the *Moline Republican*, and added its job plant as a department of the Union printing business. Captain Haverstick was the editor of the Union until 1874, but in the meantime

he had several partners in the business. On July 1, 1867, M. D. Merrill bought a two-fifths interest. At the end of two years he sold it back to Mr. Haverstick. The latter then sold a half interest to Mr. Richard Crampton, and the result was the removal of the office of publication to the block in which Mr. Crampton carried on his book store and blank book manufactory. This combination continued until the Summer of 1872, when Captain Haverstick repurchased Mr. Crampton's interest and built the block on Eighteenth Street from which the *Union*, daily and weekly, has since been issued. In the Spring of 1873, Mr. O. A. Barnhart purchased a half interest in the paper, which he held for one year.

In March, 1874, the Union Printing Company was organized, to take over the property. The first stock holders and officers were: L. M. Haverstick, president; A. E. Wells, vice-president; Walter Johnson, secretary and treasurer. In September of that year Captain Haverstick sold his stock to Captain H. C. Cleaveland and J. J. Parks, when Mr. Johnson became president and editor, and Mr. Cleaveland business manager.

During the succeeding two years, the ownership of the stock held by Messrs. Cleaveland and Parks changed hands several times, Captain Haverstick returning to his old place for a time. In 1876, however, he sold his quarter interest to William Henry Burdett, and Mr. Parks sold his quarter interest to George McKay Luken, who became superintendent of the job room. After this period the ownership of the paper became staple and confined to fewer hands. Mr. Luken after a few years, sold his interest to Messrs. Johnson and Burdett, and a small block of the stock went to George Morgan, but the latter remained with the paper but a short time. In 1888, Mr. Burdett, on account of sickness which caused his death December 1, 1889, sold his interest to Mr. H. C. Ashbaugh. The latter, in 1891, sold it to

Mr. Johnson, who thus became the sole owner well as the editor. After his death the as property descended to his widow and daughters, who have retained the ownership of the paper. J. K. Brandenburg, whom Mr. Johnson, during the period of invalidism preceding his death, placed in charge of the editorial department, continuing in that capacity, with L. Ben Driffill as business manager, and F. W. Rinck as advertising manager.

The *Daily Union* has returned to the field which it originally occupied as an evening paper, and the change has materially increased the prosperity which the paper has enjoyed for a quarter of a century.

#### THE AMERICAN LAW REPORTER.

A neat, little quarto-weekly paper which made its appearance in the Fall of 1872, was *The American Law Reporter*, with L. G. Johnson as editor. As the name implies it was devoted to the interests of the legal profession of Illinois and Iowa. The first edition was printed in Davenport, then it was moved into the Union Block, Rock Island. The paper was published for eighteen weeks, when it ceased for want of patronage.

#### THE LIBERTY LEAGUE.

Another paper, which had a short life, and whose publishers were unannounced, made its appearance April 3, 1873, its name being *The Liberty League*. The paper was started as an organ for the liquor dealers of Rock Island and the adjoining cities. It lived three weeks, when, as generally supposed, the material was stole during the night time, shipped to Burlington, Iowa, and sold.

#### MOLINE DAILY DISPATCH.

Established July 31, 1878, by Oliver and Louise White, who came to Moline from Toulon, Stark County, where they had conducted the *Mollie Stark*. They started the *Dispatch* as a four-column folio. A little later it was consolidated with the *Review*, and

thus originated the name of the *Review-Dispatch*, now the weekly edition of the *Daily Dispatch*. Samson Kennedy was one of the successors of the Whites, and with him was Captain L. M. Haverstick. These proprietors conducted the *Dispatch* till in the early eighties they were succeeded by the Dean Brothers—Fred O. Dean and Jay H. Dean. When these latter had failed to make the publication pay, they were, in July of 1885, succeeded by P. S. McGlynn and John K. Groom. Mr. Groom sold out his interest in 1891 to W. F. Eastman. Since that time Messrs. McGlynn and Eastman have been editors, publishers and owners of the paper, under the style of the Moline Dispatch Publishing Company.

#### MOLINE WEEKLY REVIEW-DISPATCH.

From June of 1867, when Captain L. M. Haverstick bought the *Moline Republican* and discontinued it, to November 26, 1870, Moline had no newspaper. On the date last named, Messrs. Lowe and Gilson (Frank R. Gilson, later of the Clinton, Iowa, *Herald* and the Benton Harbor, Michigan, *Palladium*, during his proprietorship of which latter paper he died) started the *Moline Review*. They used the printing material of the discontinued *Republican*. February 17, 1871, Mr. Lowe retired from the firm. Mr. Gilson continued publishing the paper till September 23, 1871, when he gave way to Kennedy and Crichton. May 1, 1872, Mr. Crichton retired and was succeeded by B. F. Tillinghast, now of the Davenport *Democrat*. The firm was Kennedy and Tillinghast till March 23, 1874, when Mr. Kennedy retired. Tillinghast conducted the paper alone till July 1, 1875, when he was joined by John H. Porter. February 5, 1877, Tillinghast and Porter sold the paper to R. H. Moore, later of the Ottumwa *Courier*. In 1878 came consolidation with the *Daily Dispatch*, under the management of Oliver White and his wife.

## PORT BYRON GLOBE.

The first issue of the Port Byron *Globe* appeared October 16, 1880, J. W. Simpson being editor and proprietor. It was then an eight-column folio and was liberally patronized from the start. Mr. Simpson, February 22, 1885, sold out to Hess and Owen. This firm continued for a year, when Mr. Hess sold his interest to G. A. Metzgar, and the latter disposed of his interest to Mr. Owen after only a short connection with the paper. In 1891 W. D. Hall purchased an interest and the firm was then known as Owen and Hall. March 1, 1898, Frank McMeekin purchased Mr. Owen's interest and the firm of Hall and McMeekin continued five years, when the junior member of the partnership retired from the publication and W. D. Hall became sole owner, and continues as such at the present time.

The *Globe* has always borne the reputation of being one of the best country weeklies of the State. Its advertising space is sought because it is backed by the entire farming community and the villages of the north end of the county, and it is also carefully edited and neatly printed. Under the management of Mr. Hall the business of the paper has doubled, and it is at present equipped with power presses and other machinery to meet the increase in its patronage.

The paper has always been independent politically, giving first attention to the home news, and treating all fairly and honestly, regardless of color, sex or previous condition of servitude. In short, the paper is a family paper and its present proprietor feels that his efforts to make it such are appreciated, as his readers point to the *Globe* as a model country paper.

## MOLINE MAIL.

Although the youngest of the newspapers of Moline, the Moline *Evening Mail* has, from the first, enjoyed the confidence and favor of

the great mass of the people comprising Moline's population; and with the growth of the city and suburbs the paper has increased in these attributes.

Started as a Sunday morning paper in 1893, the daily edition was begun soon afterward, induced by the growth in popularity of the Sunday edition. The first owner of the paper was the firm of Stanley and May—Messrs. T. I. Stanley and Charles E. May—and it so continued until Mr. Stanley sold his interests to W. A. Jones, and the paper continued under the firm of Jones and May. In 1902 Mr. Jones sold his half interest to J. H. McKeever, then city editor, and the firm became May and McKeever. This partnership was incorporated in 1903 as The Moline Mail Company, and the following directors were elected and serve at present: E. B. McKeever, J. H. McKeever, C. E. May and J. H. Holmes; the officers being as follows: president, E. B. McKeever; vice-president, J. H. Holmes; secretary-treasurer, J. H. McKeever.

From the first *The Mail* has been independent in politics, voicing the will and the vigor of public sentiment as expressed by the people.

Starting with a foot-power job press and a small type equipment, located in a cellar basement, *The Mail* has grown until today it occupies its own building, a fine two-story brick structure at 1420 Fifth Avenue, has a perfecting press and linotype machines, a large equipment in composing room, and a splendid, loyal and enthusiastic staff of workers in all departments. E. P. Rundquist is city editor and J. A. Logsdon is in charge of the circulation. E. B. McKeever is editor, and J. H. McKeever, business manager. The paper is now issued every week day evening, the Sunday issue having been discontinued.

A job printing department is also operated in connection with the newspaper.

## THE REYNOLDS PRESS.

Jesse A. Winger was the founder of the *Press*. He bought the entire plant, new from shooting-stick to newspaper press, in Chicago, and issued Number one of Volume one in Aledo, the seat of Mercer County, on October 19, 1894. In that city it was published for more than a year as a red hot Democratic weekly.

But the income wasn't quite large enough to pay the expenses, and so Mr. Winger sought a new field. He found it at Reynolds, the metropolis of the lower end of Rock Island County, and one of the finest little villages in the State, located, by the way, about half way between Aledo and Rock Island, and surrounded in every direction by a particularly rich agricultural region. The *Aledo Press* thus became the *Reynolds Press*, without missing an issue, in January, 1896, at the same time changing its politics to independent.

In February, 1897, the plant and subscription list were sold to Guy V. Pettit, who at that time was principal of the Brimfield, Peoria County, schools. Mr. Pettit had been in public school work for twelve years, five of them having been spent at the head of the Hampton and Reynolds schools, respectively. Without a single day's experience in a print shop, the new owner assumed personal charge of his venture July 1, 1897, and has been with the paper ever since.

In common with most country weeklies, the *Press* was a "patent inside" paper up to May 1, 1904. Since that time it has been an "all home print," published in six-column quarto style, with occasionally two to four additional pages to accommodate special spurts of advertising. The old hand press, on which the paper was printed for six years, disappeared in 1900 to make room for a big drum cylinder, that runs at the rate of 1,200 an hour. The *Press*, which, by the way, has never missed an issue since its birth twelve

years ago, attempts to make a specialty of local news, neighboring correspondence and live advertisements. Its principal claim for distinction lies in the fact that, considering the size of the village, it probably has a larger circulation than any other paper in the State.

## THE BEOBACHTER AM MISSISSIPPIAN.

The first paper printed in the German language in Rock Island was *The Beobachter am Mississippian*, making its appearance in 1837, the proprietor being Maguns Mueller, and edited by Doctor Ciolina, a physician who resided and practiced his profession here for some years. The paper was not well supported and survived only about one year. Its politics were neutral.

## THE CHRONIK DES WESTENS.

In December, 1859, the material of the *Beobachter* office was purchased by Adam and George Leiberknecht, who on the first of January, 1860, started a weekly German newspaper, called the *Chronik des Westens*. This paper, like its predecessor, was neutral in politics. It ceased to exist in 1863.

## THE NEUE VOLKS ZEITUNG.

On the 30th of August, 1875, the first number of a handsome semi-weekly, entitled *Neue Volks Zeitung*, was issued from Zeis' Building on the northeast corner of Eighteenth Street and Second Avenue. It was started by Charles C. Winter, one of the editors of the *Westliche Post*, of St. Louis, who had come here during the April previous to inspect the prospects for such an enterprise. The paper was a success from the start. In politics it was thoroughly independent, and it maintained that position admirably through out, until its name was changed.

Mr. Winter's paper flourished until March 1, 1882, when he sold the same to George S. Lechner, who came here from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Mr. Winter moving from here to Danville, Illinois, where he published



successfully the *Deutsche Zeitung* until five years ago when he died in London, England, on a journey to the fatherland. Mr. Lechner after a few months sold the *Neue Volks Zeitung* to F. Protar, through whose efforts the paper was brought to a flourishing condition. He changed the name to *Volks Zeitung*. After a prosperous ten years' career Mr. Protar, on April 1, 1893, sold his journal to the Rock Island-Moline Volks Zeitung Publishing Company, consisting of prominent German citizens of Rock Island and Moline. The paper was managed by Messrs. Paul Kersch and August Hansgen. These men were less successful than their predecessor, and July 1, 1897, John P. Kieffer, of Remsen, Iowa, undertook the publication of the paper, which he continued for exactly two years. Gustav Donald, of Davenport, bought the *Volks Zeitung* July 1, 1899, and published the same until July 1, 1901, when it came into the hands of Val. J. Peter, of Peoria, Illinois. Mr. Peter began his newspaper career seventeen years ago as a compositor for the *Volks Zeitung*. He has always considered this City his home. He went from here to Peoria, where he was engaged until his return to this City as city editor of the Daily Peoria *Sonne*, one of the largest and most influential German newspapers in the west. During the period of Mr. Peter's management of the *Volks Zeitung*, which is issued every Tuesday and Friday, was brought to a degree of excellence beyond that of any previous time in its history. On October 3, 1903, Mr. Peter bought the two-story brick building, at 1906 Third Avenue, of Henry Frick, where his thriving business is now comfortably encased. He also purchased a Hoe newspaper press, and on October 23, 1903, the *Volks Zeitung* was for the first time in its existence, printed on its own press. Mr. Peter has added a job printing department to his newspaper interests and has now a model plant. To commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the *Volks Zeitung* in a

fitting manner, Mr. Peter issued on August 30, 1905, an elaborate forty-four page anniversary edition, artistically illustrated and teaming with interesting matter, containing a complete history of this locality in general and of the German element and its achievements in particular, which is recognized as a publication of historic merits and one that has won honors for the enterprising young publisher.

#### ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

In addition to the *Union*, *Argus* and *News*, there are published in Rock Island the following:

By the Augustana Book Concern: *Augustana* (weekly), *The Augustana Journal* (semi-monthly), *The Augustana Theological Quarterly*, *Barnens Tidning* (semi-monthly), *Korsbaneret* (annually), *The Olive Leaf* (monthly), *Prarieblomman* (annually), *Ungdomsvannen* (monthly.)

Other periodicals: *Broadway Church Visitor*; Reverend William S. Marquis, editor.

*The Canners and Packers Directory of North America*; Elliot D. Fisher, publisher.

*The Fraternal Tribunes* (monthly); Robert Rexdale, editor.

*The Modern Woodman* (monthly); official paper of the Modern Woodmen of America; Frank O. VanGalder, editor.

*Mystic Light* (monthly); Henry E. Burris (colored), publisher.

*Rock Island Credit Rating Book and Daily Bulletin*; published by Rock Island Business Men.

*Polk's Rock Island-Moline Directory*, R. L. Polk and Company, publishers.

*Tri-City Unionist*; published by the Unionist Publishing Company.

*The Villa Shield*; published by the Sisters of the Visitation.

*The Davenport Daily Times*, of Davenport, conducts a news bureau in both Rock Island and Moline.

## FIRST FERRIES.

In looking over the records, we find that licenses for ferries were granted as follows: To George Davenport and Joshua Vandruff, for a ferry across Rock River, March, 1834; at the same date to George Davenport for a ferry across the Slough, and to Rinnah Wells for a ferry across Rock River.

Jonah H. Case, Antoine LeClaire and W. F. Brashar were granted a license to run a ferry across the Mississippi to the Iowa shore in March, 1835.

Nathaniel Belcher was granted a license to establish a ferry across the Mississippi at Port Byron in March, 1837.

In October, 1837, a ferry feud had arisen. John Wilson, owner of the main ferry between Stephenson and the Iowa shore, made an application to the County Commissioners for an "order vacating Henry Powars' ferry." The order was granted in 1838 "for the insufficiency of his boats, the want of hands, and for ferrying beyond the limits."

## FIRST HOTELS.

The records also furnish the following, respecting the first licenses for hotels: To Jonah H. Case, July 1833. His tavern was the first licensed within the corporate limits of Rock Island, though travelers had been kept at Barrell's house in Farnhamsburg.

In June, 1836, Jonathan Buffum was licensed to keep a tavern in Stephenson. At the same session of the Court a tavern license was also granted to Henry Powars and Company, who built the old Rock Island House, which was opened July 4, 1837 with a big ball, and torn down in 1875, to make room for the present commodious brick structure. The old frame Rock Island House, having been in existence as a hotel for over forty years, and with the new one up to the present time, the Rock Island House has stood on the old corner seventy-two years. The old hotel up to 1851 for a period of

years was the old stage station—the stage office being in the hotel office, S. S. Stevens being stage agent. Stage barn accommodations were afforded in the hotel barn where the feed store is on Market Square. When the railroad got as far as Tiskilwa—then Indian Town—Joe Barnett ran a hack from there to Rock Island.

The old-time landlords of the Rock Island House were Henry Powars, B. F. Barrett; in 1856 Woodin and Hughitt; 1858-59, Albert Tuxbury.

In issuing the old tavern licenses, the County Commissioners fixed the prices for all kinds of liquors sold, and the rates of fare both for "man and beast."

At the present location of the Harper House there have been several differently named hotels. Prior to and in the early fifties, there was the Hadsell House, kept by James R. Hadsell, who, over the front door, had on the cap stone the three links of Odd Fellowship; afterwards, with improvements that came, was the Island City Hotel, which was built in 1854 by C. H. Smith. Its dimensions being ninety-six feet by one hundred and four feet, four stories high, with one hundred sleeping rooms. Mr. Smith being its first landlord, with his wife, Mrs. Nancy Smith, as housekeeper. In 1855 Tuxbury and Arnold were proprietors. In 1856 B. O. Stanley was proprietor. Mr. C. H. Smith again took charge in 1858. It was afterwards called the Rodman House, which burned down in 1870, and the present Harper House erected that year. The old Island City Hall, in connection with the hotel, was where all the dances, lectures and shows were held before Dart's Hall was built.

The American House, built opposite the Court House on Orleans Street, in the forties, Mathias Stem being proprietor. On this site, in 1856, was built the Farnam House, a four-story brick building, with one hundred sleeping rooms; Stem and Delano, proprietors.

The Graham House in the forties was built on the corner of Illinois and Washington Streets—the Rock Island National Bank corner—where was afterwards built the City Hotel, a three-story brick building. At one time there was a butcher shop there.

Ohio House, corner of Madison and Rock River Streets; A. H. Garver, proprietor. It is still standing; used for business and private uses; a one-story brick business block surrounding it west and south.

Mansion House, Buffalo Street, south of Water Street. David Noonan, the first proprietor, followed by his brother, Patrick Noonan.

Union House, Madison Street, opposite Spencer Square. Proprietors, 1855–1858–1860, William B. O. Skelton, John Sargent, T. S. Teal. And then we had the old Shamrock on Adams Street, between Illinois and Orleans, kept by James Broderick. Later the Black Hawk on the levee, west of Madison Street, kept by Hugh Conwell; but these were two large boarding houses, and in their day well known. In early rafting days, when the rafts tied up for the night, the levee was a rough spot; with cheap low shows, and drunken rafters, it was tough.

#### FIRST MARRIAGES.

The first marriage solemnized in the County, so far as the records show, was by John W. Spencer, one of the County Commissioners, the parties being James L. Burtis and Angeline Beardsley. The license was issued July 13, 1833, and the marriage ceremony immediately followed. The second license was issued to Benjamin Goble and Barbary Vandruft, August 22, 1833. The third was issued April 1, 1834, to Adrian H. Davenport and Harriet Sibley, who were married the same day by Colonel Davenport, County Commissioner.

The first seven years of the County's legal existence, the issue of marriage licenses stood as follows: In 1833, two; in 1834, three;

in 1835, six; in 1836, twenty-one; in 1837, eleven; in 1838, twenty-three; in 1839, twenty-eight; in 1840, thirty-three.

George L. Davenport was the first white child born in this section of the country. He was born on the island in 1817, and was the eldest son of Colonel George Davenport.

#### OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

Preliminary proceedings for the organization of an Old Settlers Association were commenced on the 11th day of December, 1865, by notices published in the *Rock Island Argus* and the *Rock Island Union*, calling a meeting at Jacob Norris and Company's book store on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, 1865. On that evening ten or twelve old settlers assembled. Charles H. Case, esquire, was appointed chairman, and Major Frazer Wilson, secretary. A committee on organization was appointed, consisting of Jacob Norris, Doctor P. Gregg, William Bell, John H. Eby and Daniel Beals.

January 10, 1866, the association was formed and named the Old Settlers Association of Rock Island County. The meeting was held at the Court House, and a constitution and by-laws adopted. An annual festival and gathering was also ordered to be held, and all persons who were residents of Rock Island County prior to December 31, 1845, or who married wives who were in the County at that time, were eligible to membership, together with their children or descendants. At this meeting thirty-four members were enrolled. The first annual festival was held in Babcock's Hall in the City of Rock Island, on Thursday, February 22, 1866. August 29, 1890, the eligibility to membership was advanced from 1845 to 1850. August 27, 1895, the association adopted a resolution advancing the eligibility to membership from 1850 to 1855.

August 30, 1906, the constitution of the association was amended so that all old

settlers prior to December 31, 1845, should be eligible to membership as "pioneers," and to so remain. As to the eligibility of an "old settler," the time was extended to a date prior to December 31, 1860, and be brought down one year each year thereafter. All actual members of the Old Settlers Association prior to 1846 are considered as "pioneers," and only those are eligible to the presidency of the association.

The annual meetings for the election of officers were formerly held on the first Monday in February of each year, and a social reunion and picnic on each Fourth of July, and an annual supper on the 22nd of February — Washington's Birthday. But later years the business meetings and reunions are held in the Fall of the year, and at Black Hawk's Watch Tower. These occasions are usually fraught with good cheer on the part of the old settlers who assemble to renew their fellowships of "Auld Lang Syne," and recall recollections of forty, fifty and sixty years ago, when Indians' wigwams were more plentiful in this region than the cabins of white settlers. There are few living, who remember those earliest days, as most of the "pioneers" have passed away.

#### FAMOUS CRIMES OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY.

Since the mills of justice have been established in this County there have been numerous murders committed. For most of the cases the guilty parties were punished, six men in all having been hung for four separate crimes. Some served terms in the penitentiary, and one cheated the gallows by committing suicide. Of course there have been a number of mysterious murders for which the guilt was never placed.

From an historical standpoint, the most conspicuous crime committed in the County was the murder of Colonel George Davenport, which occurred July 4, 1845, on the Island of

Rock Island; a record of which will be found in his biography in this book.

The most revolting series of crimes committed by one man in the county's history is also the most recent, the public being doubtless still familiar with the revelations concerning his career and his self inflicted expiation when confronted with exposure of his bloody deeds. Henry Bastian, a farmer living two miles south of Milan, in March, 1896, was suspected of having caused the death of Fred Kuschmann, a young man who had been working for him and who was found dead beside the road on the night of February 29. Seeing that he would soon be arrested he committed suicide by hanging. Since that time the remains of two men, supposed to be those of John Lauderbach and Fred Kreinsen, who were at one time employed by Bastian, have been found on the place. Five others of his hired men disappeared mysteriously and it is believed that they were all murdered. Bastian's plan was to employ a man till the unpaid wages due had reached a considerable sum, and then murder them.

The first murder committed in the county was that of Lawyer Philleo, of Port Byron, who was shot and killed by John McKinley in 1843. The latter served a term in prison for the deed.

December 17, 1856, Samuel Ingram shot and killed his wife, the crime being committed a short distance east of Joslin, in Zuma Township. The murderer was tried, convicted and hung upon a scaffold east of the Henry Case residence in South Rock Island.

David Stoddard, in the Spring of 1854, killed his wife with an axe, the deed being committed at the home of the couple at the present southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-third Street. He escaped from the city and remained at large for some time. Upon being arrested he was tried and convicted of the crime, paying the full penalty.

William Heilwagon murdered the wife of

his son at her home in Hampton Township, the crime being committed in the Fall of 1881. The weapon used was a corn knife, and the body was hidden in a shock of corn. He was hanged for the crime in the jail yard March 24, 1882.

Frank Anderson, of Moline, on November 21, 1897, made an attempt upon the life of Charles Condo, a fellow workman, and was sent to the penitentiary for five years.

W. J. Evans, Paul Lohrman, H. H. Blohm and W. R. Carlson, all of Moline, were held for the murder of Charles Minne, of that city, September 26, 1901, but were acquitted the following December.

On April 7, 1876, John B. Stayback was killed by being stabbed in the head with a knife. David J. VanMeter was held for the murder, but was acquitted May 13 of the same year.

A case which attracted a great deal of attention was the grave robbery committed at Rapids City, January 19, 1900. Arthur D. Farber, Charles Donahoo and Charles Jasperson were indicted for robbing the grave of Mrs. Christine Maurer, Farber pleaded guilty and turned state's evidence, going to the penitentiary, but was afterwards paroled. Donahoo was acquitted and Jasperson was sent to the penitentiary.

Carl Wendt, a fisherman, was found dead in his boat near Cordova during the Summer of 1901. The Stiles brothers, also fishermen, of Princeton, were held for the murder but were acquitted.

Alfelia Boetjer was thrown into the Mississippi River from the Rock Island bridge in the Summer of 1886, after being choked. Her husband, James Boetjer, was arrested and indicted for the crime, but was acquitted at the January term of Court following.

In September, 1867, David Edgington shot and killed Hiram Reynolds. He was tried and convicted the following October and received a life sentence.

September, 1859, Jesse W. Ballard was struck on the head with a club and killed. Jesse Farrell was convicted of the crime but was never apprehended.

Patrick Ganey, James McCormack and Patrick Grogan killed Conrad Whittick November 14, 1879, on the Ninth Street Road, outside the city limits, by striking him with a stone. Grogan went to prison for life, Ganey got fourteen years and McCormack was acquitted.

William Dolan, Nicolas Schlitz, William Blair, John Looney, — Lynch, Timothy Butler, Halsey Hammond, John Gallagher, John Campbell, Oliver Chandanais and James Cronan killed William Armstead, alias Armstrong, on board the steamer Dubuque, with sticks of wood and pieces of coal, July 29, 1869. The accused took a change of venue to Henry County, where they were convicted.

John Kavanaugh, Bernard Heeney, Charles Ross and Pat Heeney killed Joseph Rosenfield, a policeman, March 12, 1879, on the streets of Rock Island. John Kavanaugh was sentenced for life, Pat Heeney for fourteen years.

Other cases of less sensational character were: Alexander Abbott, charged with the murder of Patrick McGurtry, June 24, 1860. The defendant was found not guilty January 14, 1865. Jasper Hampton, Turner Hampton and Joseph Langley were indicted for the murder of Charles S. Bean July 9, 1859, but were found not guilty. Harry Brookman was indicted for the murder of Grant Buffum at Andalusia in May, 1886, but was acquitted. Mable Lagrange and Elsa M. Boyer were indicted in May, 1893, for throwing a child in the river, but insane, and the case was *nolle prossed* as to Elsa Boyer. James Berry and Leslie Barker were indicted in March, 1880, for killing Anthony Evans, but were acquitted. Andrew G. Johnson was indicted in September 1863, for the murder of Lorona Roe; a change a venue was taken and the case tried in Henry County. At the September term of



Court, 1875, John Martens was tried for the murder of John Brace; he was found guilty and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. George Erbst, was indicted January 7 for killing James Jackson on Market Square with a knife; he was found guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for seventeen and a half years. Joseph McIntyre was indicted January 7, 1871, for the murder of Andrew J. Harris, but was acquitted. George W. Janes was found guilty of the murder of Robert McClusky in May, 1867, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. Britta Nelson, of Rapids City, was indicted May 5, 1876, for the murder of Peter Nelson, the weapon used being an axe. She was found guilty, but insane. Samuel Robertson was indicted January 22, 1886, for the murder of Hans Timmerman, but was acquitted February 6, 1886. Benjamin Thompson, Adam Reiling, William Patterson and Mary Patterson were indicted at the September term of Court, 1859, for the murder of a male child by crushing its head; they were acquitted at the January term, 1860.

June, 1905, a very sensational murder occurred at a cabin boat on Island B, when either Josephine Collet or William Nagel shot Carl August Brady, to gain possession of his little boat house, for which they were arrested. From the story of the accused the two sat on the porch of the house boat, and Brady entering the cabin to get some provisions, one of the two shot him, while he was leaning over a stove in the opposite end of the boat. In a valise was found a hammer, which Josephine Collet said Nagel struck Brady. The body was found in a cave near by. He had some money and other effects, which they disposed of, mostly in Muscatine. Josephine Collet was released on technicalities, while Nagel was consigned to the penitentiary for life.

#### PORT BYRON ACADEMY.

The Port Byron Academy was established in Port Byron mainly through the efforts of

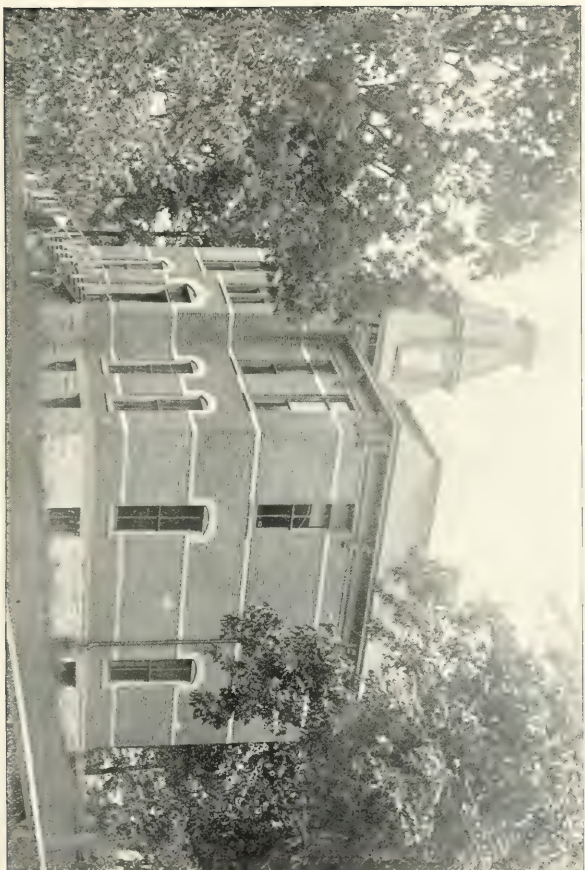
Reverend A. A. Harper. His son, E. T. Harper was the first principal. The school was started in 1881 in the second story of the building now occupied by Adrian and Witter's implement store, in the Dorrance Block. It has a strong Alumni, numbering among its members many prominent men and women. Professor M. J. Yolton, a graduate of the institution, is its present principal.

The Port Byron Academy is located at Port Byron, one of the oldest towns in Rock Island County, lies on the sloping hillside of the east bank of the Mississippi. The situation is healthful and the scenery of the river and bluffs is noted for its beauty. The village has some eight hundred inhabitants and has a high moral and social tone. In many respects it is a New England town. It has a quiet, intellectual atmosphere well suited to an earnest pursuit of studies. It stands about thirteen miles north of Moline, and is on the new main line of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad to Kansas City. It is also reached by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, and by ferry to LeClaire, with the Interurban line to Davenport and Clinton.

The purpose of the academy is to supply a high grade of scholastic education under the best of Christian influences. It attempts to give the broadest and best culture combined with a practical education for every day life. It plans to use the latest methods and to keep abreast with all the advances in modern learning.

The academy is a chartered institution under the direct control of the board of trustees. It has the hearty support of the Rock River and Davenport, Iowa, Association of Congregational Churches and is under their general supervision.

Beloit College takes an active part in promoting the interests of the academy, in securing and directing its teachers, in planning its courses of study.



PORT BYRON ACADEMY









## PART TWO

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Biographical History of Rock Island County's  
Early Settlers and Leading  
Business Men



# Biographical

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## COLONEL GEORGE DAVENPORT.

COLONEL GEORGE DAVENPORT was the first white man to make a permanent settlement in what is now Rock Island County, arriving here in the spring of 1816. He was a native of England, born in Lincolnshire, in 1783. At the age of seventeen he enlisted as a sailor on a merchant vessel, and for the next three years he visited France, Spain and Portugal. In the fall of 1803 his vessel sailed from Liverpool to St. Petersburg, Russia, and shortly after its arrival there an embargo was laid upon all English vessels in that port, the vessels taken possession of and their crews thrown into prison by the Russian Government. In the following spring they were released and returned home. The next voyage was to New York, in the summer of 1804, where they arrived in safety. After discharging their cargo and taking another on board for Liverpool, as the vessel was on the point of sailing, one of the sailors was knocked overboard. Mr. Davenport quickly jumped into a small boat and rescued him. In jumping into the boat he fractured his leg very badly and, there being no surgeon on board, the captain had him taken to the city and placed in a hospital, returning without him. After remaining in the hospital about two months, he was advised to go into the country to recruit his health. Acting upon this advice, he went to Rahway, New Jersey, and subsequently to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he afterward enlisted in the regular army.

In the spring of 1806 he went with his regiment to New Orleans, and in the fall re-

ceived orders to march to Sabine River. While there, he was sent with dispatches to Fort Adams, and while on the way his canoe struck a snag and he was upset in the river. Clinging to some drift-wood, he managed to reach the shore, and was then obliged to strike across the country to the Mississippi, traveling over swamps, bayous and sloughs. He was several days in reaching the fort, living upon what berries and wild fruit he could find. For ten years he served his adopted country as a soldier, principally against the Indians. In the second war with Great Britain the most important battle he was engaged in was that of Lundy Lane. He secured a British musket at this battle, which is still kept in the family as a relic of the war.

On receiving his discharge in 1815, he was employed by Colonel William Morrison, of Kentucky, government contractor, to supply the troops with provisions. Going to St. Louis, he took charge of several keelboats, loaded with provisions. A large drove of cattle were also purchased and driven through the country. They started up the river and arrived at the mouth of the Des Moines River late in the fall and concluded to stop there for the winter. In the spring of 1816, in company with Colonel Lawrence, in command of the Eighth Regiment United States Infantry, they again embarked on boats and proceeded up the river. Arriving at the mouth of Rock River, they examined the country for a site for a fort, resulting in the selection of the lower end of Rock Island as the most suitable point. They landed on Rock Island May 10, 1816, and here Mr. Davenport made his home until his death.

His residence, a double log cabin, was near the foot of the island, where he subsequently erected a large two-story frame house.

The Indians at that time were not very friendly to the Americans, but soon took a fancy to Mr. Davenport, giving him the name of Sag-a-nosh, meaning "an Englishman." During the second year, with what little money he had saved, he purchased a stock of goods and began trading with the Indians. As an Indian trader he was remarkably successful, securing and retaining their good will and confidence, although for a time he had more or less trouble with the Winnebagoes, at one time narrowly escaping being murdered.

In 1823 the first steamboat, the "Virginia," arrived at the island loaded with provisions for Prairie du Chien, and Mr. Davenport was called upon to pilot her over the rapids.

In 1825 a postoffice was established upon the island, with Mr. Davenport as postmaster. He held the office until its removal to the main land, on the organization of the county.

In 1827 he visited his native land, after an absence of twenty-three years, returning in 1828.

During this year the first settlements were made in this vicinity. As they were poor Mr. Davenport furnished many of them with provisions and groceries until they could raise a crop. When the Indians returned in the spring of 1829, Mr. Davenport used all his influence to induce them to remove to the west side of the Mississippi, and partially succeeded. Wapello removed his village to Muscatine Slough, and Keokuk, with part of the Sacs, to the Iowa River, but Black Hawk and the remainder of the Sacs refused to go, claiming that they never had sold their lands. During the Black Hawk War that followed, Mr. Davenport was appointed quartermaster general, with the rank of colonel.

On the organization of the county, Colonel Davenport was elected one of the first county commissioners, and served some two or three years.

In the fall of 1835, in company with several others, he purchased a claim of Antoine Le Claire, across the river in Iowa, and proceeded to lay out a town. This town was given the name of "Davenport," in his honor.

In the fall of 1837 he visited Washington City, in company with a number of chiefs of the Sac and Fox Nations, and aided the Government in the purchase of a large portion of Iowa. In 1842 Governor Chambers made another treaty with the Sacs and Foxes. He told the chiefs to select any of their white friends they might choose to assist them in making a treaty. They selected Colonel Davenport as one of four. By this treaty the Indians sold all of their lands within the State of Iowa. Shortly after this, Colonel Davenport withdrew from the Indian trade and devoted the remainder of his life to the improvement of his property in Davenport and Rock Island.

"Colonel Davenport," said a well known writer, "was of a very free and generous disposition, very jovial and very fond of company. After retiring from the Indian trade, he spent the winters generally in St. Louis or Washington. Whether traveling on a steamboat or stopping at a hotel, he would always have a crowd around him listening to his stories and anecdotes. He never sued any one in his life, and could not bear to see any one in distress without trying to relieve him. He enjoyed excellent health and spirits, and had a prospect of living many years to enjoy the comfort for which he had toiled so hard, but he was struck down by one of a band of robbers, in his own house, on the fourth of July, 1845. He died aged sixty-two."

The life of Colonel Davenport was a long and active one. "Although of trans-Atlantic extraction," says the writer already quoted from, "he was a true type of the American, possessing indomitable resolution, a restless desire to progress, with an invincible determination to overcome obstacles and achieve success. Much as his courage, perseverance,

enterprise and ability demand admiration, there is still something more than these commanding our respect and honor—something which is more lustrous than wealth, better than position or title: it is his *Humanity*. Had men of his bias dealt with Black Hawk and his 'British Band,' less gory scalp locks would have decked the belts of warring savages, less blood would have been shed, and the entire fearful drama of devastation, slaughter and carnage which was enacted upon our frontiers, would have been wholly omitted. Honor to his ashes! He sleeps in a grave whose proud epitaph reads: "Here lies a friend to humanity!"

#### JUDGE JOHN W. SPENCER.

JUDGE JOHN W. SPENCER, deceased, one of the pioneers of Rock Island County, was born at Vergennes, Vermont, July 25, 1801. His parents, Calvin and Ruth (Hopkins) Spencer, were natives of the New England Colonies. The father of Judge Spencer was born in Bennington, Vermont, and his mother near Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and were descended from the Puritan English. They reared four sons and a daughter, John W., being the eldest. At this writing the first and second generations here mentioned are long since gathered unto their fathers, and only the grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren remain to perpetuate names made honorable in the earliest history of our county. From the two families united by the marriage of Calvin Spencer and Ruth Hopkins, in the very beginning of the past century, many noble men have sprung—men who have adorned alike the pulpit and the state; and if it were possible in the space at our command to trace the genealogy of the Spencers and the Hopkinses from the days when some of their ancestors were enforcing in a judicial capacity, the

quaint old laws that forbade travel on the Sabbath except in a pious going to and from the Church of God,—laws that allowed no whistling or other boisterous conduct on that sacred day; laws, indeed, that forbade "ye good man ye kissing of his wife on ye Sabbath day"—if it were possible, we say, to follow the history of those families from their periwigged "squire-archy" down to the death-bed scene at Rock Island, February 20, 1878, from whence the spirit of John W. Spencer took its flight, the roster would contain many names that good people have revered. But the province of the present biographer is limited to a bare recital of the more important events occurring in the life of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch. The lives of Spencer, Davenport, Wells, Case and Vandruff are all indelibly stamped upon the history of a great state. Unlike a majority of men of whom we write, they made history; without such men there would have been no history to write. What we know of the hills, the forests and the streams, unpeopled by the hardy pioneer and those who followed them, would be a chapter easily written. A famous writer has said that the history of a country is but a story of the lives of the men who make it. The history of Rock Island County from the Indian occupation down to the time when a knowledge of events shall cease to be perpetuated in print will reflect the life of Spencer,—and that, too, whether his biography, as such, were ever written.

John W. Spencer spent his youth in his native state and at the common schools acquired the rudiments of an education. In 1820, driving a two-horse team for Mr. Brush, he crossed the Alleghany Mountains, traversed the broad states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and at the end of fifty-one days from the time of his leaving home, landed in the City of St. Louis. The State of Missouri was just then being admitted into the Union, and as negro slavery was, by the constitution, made legal,



Mr. Spencer preferred to cast his lot east of the "Father of the Waters". So in December following his departure from New England, in company with an uncle who had been a resident of Missouri, he recrossed the Mississippi and took up a residence in Greene County, Illinois. Here he stopped for seven years and worked at farming. In the spring of 1826, in search of a location for a water mill, he ascended the Illinois River as far as Ottawa. Failing to discover any site to his fancy, he retraced his steps and the following spring ascended the Mississippi to the lead mines. On this trip his attention was attracted by the natural beauty of Rock Island and the adjacent country on either side of the river, and when in the following year he learned that the Indians had abandoned the Rock River Territory, he decided to go at once to Rock Island. He was accompanied here by Mr. Loudon Case, Sr., whose daughter he afterward married.

At that period Galena, one hundred miles distant, was the nearest postoffice. The presidential election had just taken place, but nothing was known at Rock Island of the result. For a consideration young Spencer undertook, on foot, to carry the mailbags to and bring the election returns from Galena. The river was frozen, he donned his skates and set out. His route was through the not altogether friendly Winnebago country, but he encountered no difficulty from that source, and on Christmas Day, 1827, he started on the return trip, landing three days later at Rock Island; and the people learned that "Old Hickory" was president elect of the United States. It must almost have taken his breath away when the sum of five dollars was placed in his hands in payment for a two hundred mile run on foot through a hostile Indian country in the dead of winter.

In the spring of 1829 he brought his family from Morgan County (whither they had removed the year before from Greene) to Rock Island and took possession of a vacant Indian

wigwam. From that day to the hour of his death, J. W. Spencer was a citizen of Rock Island. He witnessed the return of Black Hawk from his hunting expedition, to find his lodges occupied by the "pale-faces"; he heard the angry and reasonable protests of that great chief, against the encroachments upon his natural rights; he heard his sorrowful argument "Saukie-wigeop-saukie-aukie" repeated many times to no purpose, and saw the great chief stride away toward the setting sun, where he told his people that the story of the occupancy of their lands by the white men was too true. He saw the chief and his people come again, and in common with other settlers, knew the purpose of their coming; he knew the possibilities of their discontent, and feared that the Indian was bent upon revenge. He noted the first outbreak of their savage insubordination; saw the culmination of their ferocity as it rose in lurid lights from burning cabins, and disturbed the elements with the screams of butchered women and children. He saw the swift-footed pioneers as they pursued the savage destroyers, and saw the strong arm of the Government as it descended upon the wily Sac and his warriors at Bad Axe,—and he saw peace reign supreme in the valley of the Mississippi.

In all the struggles of the Rock Island pioneers Mr. Spencer participated. During the Black Hawk War he was one of the organizers of the "Rock River Rangers", in which company he held the rank of first lieutenant. He was a member of the first board of Rock Island County Commissioners, and held the office twelve years. He was the first judge of the Rock Island County Court, and as such performed the first marriage ceremony in the county. He was a delegate to the Illinois State Constitutional Convention in 1847, and in this body he was a conspicuous factor. Though public-spirited, he had no ambition for office-holding, his only experience in that line being confined to a time when his country actually needed and





*P. L. Mitchell*

demanding his services. In 1841 he, with David B. Sears, Spencer H. White, and Ainsworth and Lynde, merchants at Rock Island, built the first dam erected at Moline, and developed the great water power at that place. At the death of Captain J. Wilson, the father of his second wife, in 1852, he succeeded to a controlling interest in the Rock Island and Davenport Ferry, a most valuable property, a large revenue from which still goes to the family. Mr. Spencer died as he lived, a conscientious Christian. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and brought his children up to a strict observance of that faith. One of his sons, the Rev. William Anson Spencer, is presiding elder of Dixon District, Rock River Conference, Illinois.

The first Mrs. Spencer, nee Miss Louisa Case, died in 1833, leaving one son, John C. Spencer, who died January 16, 1871. In 1834 Judge Spencer married Miss Eliza Wilson, of New Haven, Vermont. She was the accomplished daughter of Captain John Wilson, deceased. Of the six children, three only are living: Edward W., Julia S. (Mrs. D. T. Robinson) and the Rev. William Anson Spencer, of the Dixon District. John C. is deceased. Their son Charles H. was accidentally drowned when eighteen years of age in Rock River, and their youngest born, Roswell G., died when about three years of age.

### PHILEMON L. MITCHELL.

IN RECALLING to mind those men who in an early day laid the foundation of Rock Island's present commercial and financial stability, one's memory instinctively turns to an individual who, during his lifetime, was instrumental in organizing and conducting one of the largest banking houses in Rock Island County, and who was a tower of moral

and financial strength in the community, Philemon L. Mitchell, deceased.

He was born October 16, 1812, at Limington, Maine, and died at his home in Rock Island January 23, 1895. His parents were Isaac and Martha (Libby) Mitchell. The father was a native of Maine and the mother of Ireland, she having come to America with her parents in her early childhood. To this couple seven children were born, four sons and three daughters. The parents spent their lives in the City of Limington, where their family was born and reared, the father dying in that city January 26, 1853, at the age of eighty-two years. The death of the mother occurred in the same city January 3, 1877, she having attained the extreme age of ninety-four years.

Philemon L. Mitchell spent his early boyhood in Limington, his school days being limited to a short attendance in that city's public schools. But his education was not in any sense a limited one on that account, for he was throughout his life a student of men and books. At the age of thirteen years he found it necessary to face the world for himself and earn his own livelihood. Although obliged so early in life to participate in its grim struggle, he was imbued with determination to succeed and was undaunted in his efforts to that end. At the age of twenty-five he located in Georgetown, Kentucky, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. He continued in the mercantile business until 1850, when he was made cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Kentucky, a financial institution familiar in those days to every business man south of the Mason and Dixon Line. For years a note issued by this bank was equivalent to gold in any state in the Union.

In 1856 Mr. Mitchell severed his connection with that bank, and in company with P. L. Cable came to Rock Island. They bought out the banking firm of Cook, Sargent & Parker, established 1852. The partnership was continued until 1860, when Judge Cornelius

Lynde took over Mr. Cable's interest in the concern, which was continued under the name of Mitchell & Lynde until 1905. At this date the form of organization was changed to that of a state bank, and the institution is now known as the State Bank.

In 1858 Mr. Mitchell and his partner purchased the building and other assets of the old Rock Island Bank and closed up its affairs, thus succeeding in eliminating almost entirely any competition in the field of banking in this vicinity for a number of years. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Mitchell was the most widely known and successful banker in this section of Illinois, and in addition to his acknowledged financial strength and business ability he bore a deserved reputation for scrupulous integrity and probity in every commercial transaction. These facts led to his appointment by the famous New York banking institution of Jay, Cook & Company, America's financial Gibraltar at that time, as their correspondent for Rock Island County. Acting as the agent of this firm, he placed over \$1,000,000 worth of United States Government Bonds in this county. In considering the magnitude of this transaction it must be borne in mind that the sum of \$1,000,000 bore the same relation to the financial world of that day that \$25,000,000 or even \$50,000,000 would to the financial world of today.

In 1862 the First National Bank of Rock Island, charter No. 108, was organized by Mr. Mitchell, and he was elected its president. He was also president of the Rock Island Plow Company and secretary of the Chippianock Cemetery Association, as well as a large stock holder and director in the Moline and Rock Island Street Railway Company, the Rock Island Glass Works, and the Rock Island Stove Company.

On October 11, 1837, at Exeter, New Hampshire, occurred the marriage of Mr. Mitchell and Miss Catherine Hall, a young lady of that city. There were born to them

five children, four daughters and a son: Annie M., widow of Wm. C. Wadsworth; Mary H., widow of Henry Wadsworth; Phil, president of the State Bank of Rock Island, whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Laura M., deceased, who was the wife of Charles Shaler, United States Army, and Kate M., wife of Henry S. Fraser, of Indianapolis, Indiana. The death of Mrs. Mitchell occurred October 4, 1868.

Mr. Mitchell throughout his life was a consistent and devoted member of the Christian Church, and to his memory has been erected the new Memorial Christian Church by his daughter, Mrs. Mary H. Wadsworth. He was a man extremely liberal but wholly unostentatious in his giving. His was a true and simple Christian character. As he walked through the world he helped his fellow man in the best and wisest manner, not by making him a dependent, but by aiding him to attain a position of independence, by friendly counsel or sound business advice, and where pecuniary assistance was necessary it was cheerfully and freely given, and from his lips no one ever learned of the generous act.

Such was the life of P. L. Mitchell. To attempt to delineate in eulogistic words his fine life and character would be futile. He was a man of quiet, natural dignity. Successful himself, he delighted in the success of others. In the happy phraseology of a great writer he was "one of God's own gentlemen."

#### JOHN EDGINGTON.

THE name of Edgington is a well known one throughout Rock Island County.

It is the name of one of the county's earliest pioneer families. It is also the name of one of the county's most prosperous little villages, named in honor of one of the founders of that family, John Edgington, the subject of our sketch, a man who in his long lifetime



spent in this county, lived to see it grow from a waste of prairie and wilderness into a wonderfully fertile farming community, dotted here and there with busy little villages and cities devoted to manufacture and commercial enterprise.

John Edgington was born July 4, 1809, at Steubenville, Ohio, and died in March, 1896, at the home of his son, James Edgington, at Reynolds, in this county.

He received his education in the common schools of Steubenville, Ohio, his birthplace, and in his young manhood followed the occupation of trading and merchandising in Steubenville, Ohio. In July, 1834, he made a trip on horse-back from Steubenville to Rock Island seeking farm land, and stopping at a point in this county decided to permanently settle here. He took up a farm in what afterwards became Edgington Precinct, this being named after him. This precinct was afterwards divided into Edgington and Buffalo Prairie Townships, Mr. Edgington's farm being located in the latter township.

On February 17, 1834, previous to settling in Rock Island County, Mr. Edgington was married to Miss Susan Crabbs, a young lady of Steubenville, and to the wilds of what was then an unsettled frontier, he brought his young wife. Nine children were born of this union, their eldest child, James, being the first white child born in Rock Island County south of Rock River. Their other children were Sarah; William, a son who died in infancy; Jane, now Mrs. Rufus Walker; Casandra, Margaret, wife of C. E. Dodge; Drusilla, wife of S. H. Parvin, and Harriet, wife of Fred Titterington. All of the children are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Dodge. To her children Mrs. Edgington often recounted her experiences when she came to Rock Island County a bride. For the first six months after coming here, she never saw another white woman, and she was in constant fear of the Indians who then roamed over the country. They

took a great fancy to her first born son, James, the first white baby they had ever seen, and the young mother received frequent and urgent offers to trade a papoose for the white baby. This added to her fears, for she was in constant terror lest the Indians great desire to possess her offspring might lead them to make a forcible exchange at some time when her husband was absent. Mrs. Edgington died at the home of Mr. Rufus Walker, in Reynolds, in October, 1886.

But to return to our account of Mr. Edgington. He cleared and cultivated his farm in Buffalo Prairie, where he made his home until 1894, when he sold his farm and moved to Reynolds to make his home with his son, James, where, as has been stated, he lived until his death two years later. He lived the busy life of a farmer, but found time to take an interest and an active part in all that pertained to the advancement of the county. He was justice of the peace and school director for more than thirty years. He served as supervisor from his township for several terms, and served as a juror at the first term of court ever held in this county. He was a hospitable and genial man, and there was always a place at his table and hearth fire for the stranger and wayfaring man of those times, who was seeking a home.

In religious faith Mr. Edgington was a Presbyterian, and he helped to build the first church of that denomination that was built below Rock River in this county. He also helped hew the logs and erect the first school house built in the lower end of the county. It was located about an eighth of a mile east of his residence. The school was supported for several years by private subscription and if there was any deficit in the amount necessary to carry on the work of education, Mr. Edgington was always prompt in making up the balance himself.

In politics Mr. Edgington was always a staunch Democrat, and with this party he was a firm adherent until the silver question

became their paramount issue. Then, not agreeing with the majority of his party upon this question, he cast his vote for William McKinley, but it cost him a hard struggle to do so.

During his lifetime he accumulated a considerable competence, and the farm that he owned became enhanced in value as the years went by until it, in itself, became worth a very considerable fortune. He was a man of great public spirit, a man beloved and esteemed by those who knew him, and his long and busy life was crowned with success.



#### HON. T. J. MEDILL.

**R**ANKING among Rock Island's prominent men, who have been honored politically and who have achieved a high standing in the realm of business, stands the subject of this sketch, Thomas J. Medill.

He was born in Milan, Illinois, March 16, 1859. His parents were Thomas J. and Eliza A. (Dickson) Medill. The father, when a young man, emigrated from the north of Ireland to America, and here he married Miss Eliza A. Dickson, the daughter of William Dickson, and a native of Erie County, Pennsylvania. William Dickson, of whom a more extended biography appears elsewhere in this volume, laid out the town of Camden Mills, the name of which was afterward changed to Milan, in 1843. Mr. Medill's parents enjoyed a long and happy life together and were greatly beloved and esteemed by all who knew them. The death of the mother occurred February 5, 1898. The father survived his wife scarcely a year, passing away January 9, 1899.

Our subject spent his boyhood and early manhood in the Village of Milan and on a farm in Bowling Township, and after completing the curriculum prescribed by the village school of that period he entered upon an apprenticeship to the paper maker's trade.

At that time there were three paper mills in active operation in the vicinity of Milan, and the manufacture of that commodity was one of the main supports of that village. After mastering his trade Mr. Medill continued in that line of occupation for seven years, when he was offered a position in a promoting company which made a business of installing the Holly system of water works machinery, and which was then operating in the southwest. Later he returned to this county and settled in Rock Island, opening a real estate office. In this business he was a pronounced success, his acumen and sound judgment rendering him particularly competent to pass upon realty values. Consequently, in 1887 he was asked to take a leading part in the formation and organization of the Black Hawk Homestead Building, Loan and Savings Association, of which Mr. Medill became secretary, the active management of the association being entrusted to him. The success of the venture is due largely to his progressive, yet judicious management, and today the association is one of the foremost in that line operating in Rock Island. Mr. Medill still continues as its secretary and has the guidance of its affairs.

In 1893 Mr. Medill was candidate for mayor of Rock Island upon the Democratic ticket, the party of his choice and of his father before him, and to which he has always given his allegiance. He was elected, and upon the expiration of his term he again turned his whole attention to the duties involved in the management of the Building and Loan Association. In 1897 he was again a candidate, and was again elected. During Mr. Altgeld's administration as governor of Illinois, Mr. Medill was appointed by that executive as president of the board of trustees of the Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane, located at Watertown. At that time the immense institution had not been built, but as is customary the board of trustees was appointed before the actual erection of the



THOMAS J. MEDILL.



institution, and it became a part of their duties to select a site and in a measure superintend the erection of the buildings. Largely through Mr. Medill's efforts the present site within this county was selected, and this spacious retreat for the reception and cure of the mentally afflicted was commenced during his incumbency. In 1896 he was proffered by his party the nomination for secretary of state for Illinois, but declined the honor. Mr. Medill is an active partisan in behalf of the Democratic party, but is as scrupulously fair and honorable in political matters as he is in business transactions. He has frequently been a delegate to his party's city, county, district and state conventions.

Mr. Medill was one of the organizers of the Rock Island Club, an institution formed for the promotion of the industrial, commercial and general welfare and advancement of Rock Island, and which also has many delightful social features. Three times Mr. Medill has been chosen as president of the Rock Island Club, and he is now a member of the board of directors.

Fraternally Mr. Medill is connected with the Masonic Order, of which he has been elected to the office of Worshipful Master; the National Union; the Modern Woodmen of America; the Knights of the Globe; the Fraternal Tribunes and the Elks. Mr. Medill was one of the organizers of the fraternal society known as the Fraternal Tribunes, which, it will be remembered, was first formed in that city. Mr. Medill was one of its chief promoters.

In 1903 occurred the marriage of Mr. Medill and Miss Lucy Kinner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kinner, of Rock Island. Of their union one child has been born, a daughter, Frances V. Medill. At the time of the writing of this sketch, Mr. Medill had recently purchased one of the handsomest of the smaller residences in Rock Island. It is located on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Nineteenth Street, and until the time Mr.

Medill purchased it, was owned and occupied by Hon. Elmore W. Hurst.

As one of the most important works undertaken by the City of Rock Island during Mr. Medill's administration as mayor may be mentioned the construction of the great system of reservoirs by which the city is supplied with water, and which by its triple method of aeration, filtration and sedimentation is designed to remove the impurities naturally existing in the water as it is taken into the reservoir directly from the river.

In conclusion it may be said of Mr. Medill that as a man he is honorable, upright and conscientious; as a citizen untiring in his efforts for the advancement of Rock Island, and in business he possesses acumen, keen insight and great general ability. These have been the characteristics and guiding principles of his life, and to them is due the fact that he is one of Rock Island's most respected and highly esteemed citizens.



## COLONEL STANHOPE E. BLUNT.

THE history of the United States Government Arsenal located upon Rock Island is exhaustively narrated from its inception in another portion of this work. Consequently it is not the intention of the writer of this sketch to touch upon any phase of that history except the period covered by the regime of the present Commandant of Rock Island Arsenal, Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt, a man whose executive ability has been demonstrated of a high order.

Stanhope E. Blunt was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 28, 1850. His father was Colonel Charles E. Blunt, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, who graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1846. His mother before her marriage was Miss Penelope Bethune English. Both his father and mother were born in



Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Colonel Blunt's forebears were among the earliest colonists in America. His paternal ancestors rank among the original settlers of Massachusetts, who, as history records, arrived there from England about 1634.

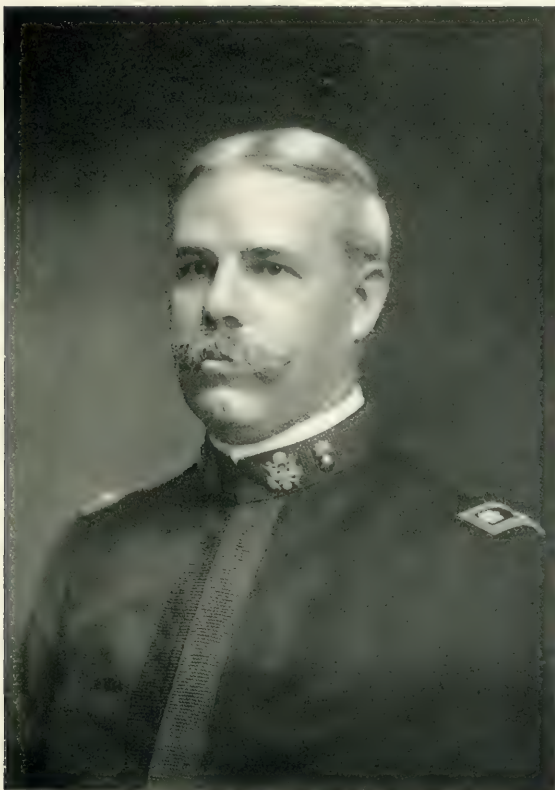
As a boy Colonel Blunt attended the public schools of his native city, Boston, and later the high school at Oswego, New York, from which he graduated in 1868, and thus he was well qualified for entrance to West Point. Upon the completion of the prescribed course of four years at the military academy, he graduated from that institution in 1872 with the rank of second lieutenant, and with the honor of being third in his class.

Upon his graduation he was at once assigned to duty in the Thirteenth Infantry, and in the course of a short time was promoted to a first lieutenancy. He served with his regiment in the states of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico from June 14, 1872, until November 1, 1874, when he was transferred to the Ordnance Department. From the date of his assignment to ordnance service until 1885, Colonel Blunt was stationed at various posts in numerous capacities. He was for a time instructor in mathematics, and also in ordnance and gunnery at West Point. Hewas afterward stationed for different periods at Frankfort, Springfield and Watervliet Arsenals; served as chief ordnance officer and inspector of rifle practice at headquarters' department in Dakota, and as inspector of small arms practice for the army.

On November 1, 1885, Colonel Blunt was assigned as aide-de-camp to General Sheridan, and served in this capacity until the death of that warrior-hero, which occurred August 5, 1888. In March, 1897, he was detailed commandant of Rock Island Arsenal, where he has since remained. At the time Colonel Blunt began his tenure as commandant, the Arsenal was little more than a magnificent possibility. It had potential

greatness but that greatness was undeveloped. To the new commandant was given the power to transform the possibility into a reality. How well he has accomplished that task can be best appreciated by those who have seen it grow in importance from a small manufacturing plant employing a few hundred men to a mammoth plant employing thousands; who have seen the discontinuance of the antiquated application of direct water power and the installation of huge dynamos, driven by huge turbines; who witnessed the straining of every facility and the astounding output during the Spanish-American War, and lastly the acquisition of the Arsenal's latest industry, the small arms' plant, whose location at this point was due largely to the efforts and advice of the commandant. These achievements clearly show that the man was not merely content to sit quietly by and allow events to pursue their course without lifting a hand to shape those events. He is preeminently a man of action. Let credit be given where credit is due and praise where praise is meet. To Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt is certainly due great credit and unstinted praise, for certain it is that he is the active and important factor in the Arsenal's development. That he has had able assistants is true, but upon his shoulders rested the weight of responsibility as commandant, and his ability was so thoroughly recognized that his suggestions in regard to improvements for the Arsenal were given a ready hearing by his superior officers.

November 18, 1873, Colonel Blunt was wedded to Miss Fanny Smyth, of Oswego, New York, the city of her birth, her parents being Charles and Catherine (Colt) Smyth. Both were of English descent; the father tracing his ancestry from the early settlers in Albany, New York, and the mother tracing her progenitors to the first pioneers in Connecticut. To Colonel and Mrs. Blunt three daughters have been born, the Misses Kath-



COLONEL STANHOPE E. BLUNT



erine, Evelyn Bethune (named after her maternal grandmother's French ancestors,) and Frances Smyth Blunt. These young ladies have received a most careful and comprehensive education, and take an active part in the social life of the Tri-Cities.

But it is not alone for his pronounced executive ability at the Rock Island Arsenal that Colonel Blunt has won prominence. As an authority on military tactics, and as a writer upon technical subjects pertaining to martial affairs he has long since been accorded commendation and recognition. His books, "Rifle and Carbine Firing," and "Firing Regulations for Small Arms" have reached the almost incredible number of sixteen editions.

Colonel Blunt is a member of several patriotic and military societies, among which may be mentioned the Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the Revolution, Society of War of 1812, Society of Foreign Wars, Society of American Wars, Naval Order of the United States, and the Loyal Legion.

How sincerely Colonel Blunt's efforts toward the upbuilding of the Arsenal, not only by the people of the Tri-Cities, but by the authorities at Washington as well, is demonstrated by the high tribute paid him by Senator Allison, when he declared that "Rock Island Arsenal, during the few months of the late Spanish War, more than returned in advantage to the country the great cost of its construction; and unquestionably, in a war of any magnitude and duration, this cost would again be repaid many fold."

Such is the career of Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt. Added comment or fulsome eulogy would be futile and would only detract from the impression created by the simple, dignified life of the man himself. A man of few words and many deeds, courteous in his bearing toward all, is Colonel Blunt; in fine a thorough gentleman; a vigorous executive and a typical soldier.

## MORRIS ROSENFIELD.

ONE of Rock Island's most prominent and respected citizens during his lifetime spent in that city, and whose memory is cherished and revered by all who knew him, was Morris Rosenfield, the subject of this sketch.

He was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, December 18, 1841, and died January 28, 1899, at Tuebingen, Germany, where he had gone in hopes that he might regain his shattered health.

The Rosenfield family was one of the most respected in the little city of our subject's birth, his father being one of the most enterprising and prosperous citizens of Wurttemberg. As an instance of the indomitable spirit that animated the elder Rosenfield, it may be related that after he was well past three score years he came to America on a visit to his son, Morris, and other relatives located here, a very considerable undertaking for a gentleman of his years in a day when the luxuries of traveling were very far below what they are today, and when any lengthy journey was inevitably accompanied by delay, fatigue and danger. To the firm and unfaltering character of this patriarch the success of the future generations of Rosenfields can be traced.

Morris Rosenfield received his education at the high school in Megentheim, Germany. After completing his studies in that institution he decided to emigrate to America. He came to this country in 1859 when he was eighteen years of age. His uncles, J. and M. Rosenfield, were already engaged in the wholesale leather business in Rock Island, and in that business their nephew found employment, later becoming one of the partners. He sold out his interest in the leather business, however, in 1868, and one year later he became identified with parties who were operating a factory in Moline, devoted to the

manufacture of farm wagons. This manufactory with which Mr. Rosenfield was connected decided to incorporate in 1872, and at that time he became the first president of what has been known ever since as The Moline Wagon Company, a position he held until the time of his death. He was practically the founder of the company, and was always the life and inspiration of the concern, molding and guiding it through its constant and steady growth and by his business ability and foresight developing it into one of that city's largest and most important industries, and by its progress and prosperity demonstrating that its founder and developer possessed talent as an organizer.

On the 10th of November, 1874, Mr. Rosenfield was joined in marriage to Miss Julia E. Ottenheimer, and to this couple three children were born: Irene, wife of Samuel Strauss, and now residing in New York City; Walter A., the present head of the Moline Wagon Company, and the sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this book, and Charles. Mr. Rosenfield was a man devoted to his home, his wife and his children, and his family circle was indeed a happy one. When in the clutches of the disease that finally caused his death his family bent every thought and every effort toward giving him the most tender and ministering care.

In politics Mr. Rosenfield was a staunch and loyal Republican, and occupied a prominent place in the councils of his party. He served as delegate and as alternate to several National Conventions of the Republican party, and freely gave his labor, his influence and his money to promote the success of the party of his choice.

Mr. Rosenfield was a man of high character and of broad and comprehensive view. He was thoroughly cosmopolitan in his tastes and ideas. Of a kindly and genial disposition he was always ready to help those less fortunate than himself, and to help them in such a way that they would be enabled there-

by to help themselves. He had very many warm, personal friends, and by his death Rock Island lost one of her best and most progressive citizens. A man of kindly thought and generous deed he is remembered by those who knew him with sentiments of most sincere regard.



### WALTER A. ROSENFELD.

WALTER A. ROSENFELD, the eldest son of Morris and Julia E. Rosenfield, was born in Rock Island, June 13, 1877. The sketch of his father and of the history of the Rosenfield family precedes this.

After completing the Rock Island public schools, Mr. Rosenfield entered St. John's Military School at Manlius, New York, and graduated from that school.

In 1898 the lingering and hopeless illness of his father, Morris Rosenfield, having made it impossible for him to longer assume the duties devolving upon the president of an industry like the Moline Wagon Company, his son, our subject, was elected to that office, which position he still holds. Called to assume the guiding power of a great and growing industry when he had barely attained his majority, and at an age when most young men of his station are still pursuing their collegiate course, Mr. Rosenfield has displayed splendid ability in handling the large affairs that constantly demanded his attention. Under his management the plant has been enlarged and the output increased. Several new buildings have been added until the capacity of the factory is almost doubled.

Like his father, Walter A. Rosenfield, is a Republican, and although never seeking any political office for himself he takes an active interest in the trend of political affairs. He makes his home at the family residence at the head of Eighteenth Street in Rock Island, a handsome brick and sandstone







*Wm. Rosefield*



Watson



edifice, and the handsomest home in the city. Mr. Rosenfield is a young man to whom large opportunities have been given to demonstrate what manner of man he is, and he has proved himself to be thoroughly capable. He has managed the affairs of the large industry, of which he is at the head, wisely and well.



### MAX DANIEL ROSENFELD.

MAX D. ROSENFELD is a familiar name in business circles throughout Rock Island, Moline and Davenport as well. He was born in Muhlingen, Wurttemberg, Germany, April 4, 1867, his parents being Daniel and Marie Rosenfield. He attended the public schools of his native town. He came to America at an early age, and later located in Chicago, where he resided from 1883 to 1901, when he removed to Moline.

A branch of the Chicago Brewing Company had been established in Rock Island in 1894, Sam Pells being the first manager. In 1889 this Brewing Company became a part of the great United Breweries Company of Chicago, and on February 13, 1901, Mr. Rosenfield assumed the management of the Rock Island branch, succeeding Mr. Pells. This position Mr. Rosenfield still holds, and during his management he has greatly increased the patronage of the Rock Island branch until it has reached a stage where there is now talk of putting up a fully equipped brewing plant in Rock Island as another link in the chain of breweries which this company controls.

October 4, 1893, Mr. Rosenfield was joined in marriage to Miss Rebecca Hirsch, the daughter of Simon Hirsch, one of Rock Island County's early settlers. After a number of years of happy married life Mrs. Rosenfield died, Mr. Rosenfield later married her sister, Miss Tillie Hirsch.

Mr. Rosenfield's political affiliation is with the Republican Party. He is a Thirty-second Degree Mason, Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and is a charter member of the Moline Lodge of Elks.

In religion he is an adherent of the Jewish faith, and is a trustee of Temple Emanuel, the house of worship of the Jewish congregation (Reformed) at Davenport, Iowa.

He is a man of great executive ability as has been demonstrated by his able management of the branch of which he has control. In his business dealings he is upright and conscientious, and in his social relations pleasant and affable, easily making and keeping friends.



### EDWARD HOLMES GUYER.

ONE of the comparatively few whose genius for large undertaking and achievement determines the destinies of the localities in which they live, is the subject of this sketch—Edward Holmes Guyer, of Rock Island. He is a native of the city, having been born there October 30, 1853.

His parents were Judge Samuel S. Guyer and Annette Holmes, daughter of the late George E. Holmes, of Port Byron. Judge Guyer was a pioneer of Rock Island County, of which he was county judge for a period of eight years, serving the county as sheriff for like period. He was one of the original proprietors of the Town of Coal Valley, and was an incorporator of the Coal Valley Mining Company, also of the Rock Island and Peoria Railroad Company and of Chippianock Cemetery.

Edward Holmes Guyer received his education in the Rock Island Grade and High Schools. He graduated from the Michigan University, receiving therefrom the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws.



He also studied for two years at Heidelberg, Germany.

Mr. Guyer entered upon his active business career in the City of Rock Island in the year 1879 when he opened his office and entered into the practice of law, which he has followed ever since. He was secretary and attorney for the Rock Island and Milan Street Railway Company and of the Moline Central Street Railway Company, the first road in Illinois to be equipped with modern electric motors.

Mr. Guyer has been attorney and manager of the Rock Island Mutual Building Loan and Savings Association since its organization twenty-six years ago; has been director of the Chippianock Cemetery Association since 1882, and its president for more than twenty years.

His interests in real estate have been very extensive. He platted in Rock Island, Guyer Sub-division, Guyer's First, Second and Third Additions, Edgewood Park, First and Second Additions to Edgewood Park, College Heights and Buford and Guyer Additions. In Moline he platted Prospect Park and First and Second Fairmount Additions. In the year 1895 platted the Town of East Moline on a tract of twelve hundred acres.

Mr. Guyer's public services to the Cities of Rock Island and Moline have been great. He originated and carried to a successful conclusion the project of locating the Watertown Hospital for the Insane at Watertown, and the location of the small arms' plant at Rock Island Arsenal in which enterprise he spent six weeks at Washington to secure an appropriation from Congress. He was one of a delegation of three to the Head Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America held at Omaha, securing the removal of the head offices from Fulton to Rock Island.

Mr. Guyer has been twice elected a director of the Rock Island Club, and was its president in 1905. He represented the Seventh Ward of his city in the years 1892 and 1893.

He is a Republican, but of the independent order. His marriage to Miss Constance Kimball, of Paris, Maine, was celebrated in the year 1886. Of this union the children are Alice F. Guyer and Edward F. Guyer.



## PETER FRIES.

A MAN whose personality was strongly impressed on Rock Island County, was Peter Fries, distiller, banker, and man of affairs. Mr. Fries was born May 4, 1822, on the family estate known as "Guss-Hof," situated on the River Main, in Bavaria, Germany. He died July 20, 1902, in Rock Island, Illinois. His father's name was Johann, his mother's, Gertrude (nee Brand), of Reistenhausen.

Johann Fries was the owner of the Guss-Hof, the estate which had descended from father to son for many generations, and was situated near Stadt Prozeltzen.

Peter Fries, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest of eight children. After receiving his education, he assisted his father in the affairs of the estate, until he reached the age of manhood, when he sold his inheritance to his oldest sister.

The burden had been heavy, and being informed of the rare opportunities for thrift and energy in America, he came in the year 1849 to the United States, and located in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Here he engaged in the tannery business, but his investment proved unfortunate, and he continued but for one year, when he removed to Henry, Illinois, where he once more embarked in the leather business. After two years spent in Henry, he sold his establishment and removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he engaged in the manufacture of vinegar, which he continued until the year 1854. At this time he came to Rock Island and entered upon the business of distilling and rectifying





F. H. GUYER



Peter Freese





liquors, and continued therein until the end of his life.

Now fortune smiled on Mr. Fries, and as he prospered he became widely interested in real estate. He was a charter member of the Rock Island National Bank, and of the People's National Bank. He was a director in both banks, and was vice-president of the latter up to the time of his death.

In politics Mr. Fries was a Democrat, always reserving the right to vote for men or measures according to the dictates of his own judgment.

In religion Mr. Fries was a Catholic. Mr. Fries married Theresa Dauber August 5, 1852, in the City of Henry, Illinois. Of this union, two children were born: Anna, who married the late Mr. Henry Schmidt, of St. Louis, and is now Mrs. James Connor, of Rock Island, Illinois. The other child, a son, died in infancy.

Mr. Fries died a successful man, the result of great energy, thrift and business ability. He was a man of great force of character, and in disposition modest and unassuming. His large and varied business connections made him an important factor of the business life of the city, to which his death was a great loss.



### ISAAC NEGUS.

ISAAC NEGUS, deceased, who, during his lifetime, was one of the leading business men in Rock Island, was a man whose belief in the future of the city he had chosen for his home took the substantial form of building enterprise.

He was born December 31, 1799, at La-bions, Ondaga County, New York, where he received a common school education. After leaving school he found employment in the construction department of the Erie Canal in New York State, where he remained for

three years. The experience and practical knowledge gained during those three years was a great service to him later, when he, with his partner, Mr. James Sanger, took a \$150,000 contract for a part of the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the scene of their operations being Chicago.

Mr. Negus removed from New York State in 1829, locating in Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois, where for three years he was engaged in the mercantile business. From thence he moved to Chicago and later went to Galena, Illinois, where he was again engaged in mercantile lines until he came to Rock Island on October 8, 1844. Here he again took up mercantile life and made an enviable record in his business career.

He was also a member of the banking firm of Osborn, Negus & Company known as the Rock Island Bank, the firm at that time operating the principal bank in the city. He was also one of the owners of the first street car system between the cities of Rock Island and Moline. In those early days electricity had not supplanted the horse as a means of motive power, and indeed, a hack line which Mr. Negus started and operated between the Twin-Cities was a nucleus from which the first horse car system grew. Mr. Negus was also one of the stock holders in the Rock Island Watch Company, and held a large interest in the Rock Island Stove Company.

In 1876 Mr. Negus built the Rock Island Hotel which is still one of the city's leading hotels, and this building stands as a monument to the man who believed in the future of his city and who took pride in her welfare. He stood always ready to co-operate in every possible way with any movement that looked toward the best interests of Rock Island. He invested largely in city property and at the time of his death he had very extensive holdings. He was a man of a benevolent and charitable nature and was always ready to extend a helping hand to a needy fellow being.

Mr. Negus was a self-made man. A strong and vigorous character, he determined to achieve success and through his own unaided exertions he attained his goal.

On November 28, 1839, he married Miss Jusiva Waldo, a native of Mansfield, Connecticut, the scene of their marriage being Section 3, Number 4, Summit Division of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Four children were born of this union, they being Charles W., who died September 29, 1900; Anna S., wife of the late W. S. Knowlton, (Mrs. Knowlton's death occurred March 25, 1901); Henry, who died in infancy, and William O., of Rock Island.

Although Mr. Negus had no church affiliation, yet he was a liberal supporter of the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife, whose death occurred September 1, 1873, in Rock Island, was a devout and consistent member.

In politics Mr. Negus was a Democrat, and although personally he never cared to hold office, he took a great interest in political affairs. Yielding to the solicitations of his party in Rock Island he was once prevailed upon to become a candidate for mayor of his city, which was at that time overwhelmingly Republican. He was defeated by a small majority, his personality and well known interest in municipal affairs drawing to him many votes from the opposition. At one time he was president of the Old Settlers' Association of Rock Island County.

On November 27, 1883, Mr. Negus passed away at his home in Rock Island, his death bringing to a close a long and successful life. In his old age he retired from active participation in business affairs, but he never ceased to take the same keen and zealous interest in his home city, and in the success of the enterprises which he had helped in so large a measure to create. He was a man of whom it can be said that his convictions took form in acts, and who, in his prosperity, helped those less fortunate than himself.

## HENRY A. AINSWORTH.

HENRY A. AINSWORTH, president of the Moline Trust and Savings Bank, and president of the Williams & White Company, manufacturers of steam hammers and other special tools, is classed among the truly representative citizens of Moline, and dates his residence there since 1870. He is a native of Vermont, born in Williamstown, September 28, 1833. His father, Calvin Ainsworth, was also a native of Vermont, born in Brookfield, but in early life moved to Williamstown, where for fifty years he was a general merchant, well and favorably known in all that section of the country. He married Miss Laura Lynde, a native of Vermont, whose father, Cornelius Lynde, was the first circuit judge of Orange County, that state. The Ainsworth family was of English descent, the first of the name coming to New England in the Seventeenth Century and locating in Chelsea, Massachusetts. The Lyndes are also of English descent, having settled in this country prior to the Revolutionary War, several of the name taking part in that struggle.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native village, and in the district schools received his primary education which was supplemented by attendance in two academies. In 1853, at the age of twenty years, he left home and came west, locating in Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois, where he engaged in general merchandising on his own account. In this line he continued eight years, then sold out, and for a few years was engaged in the hardware and agricultural implement trade in the same place. In both lines he met with good success.

In 1870 Mr. Ainsworth came to Moline and secured an interest in the manufactory of Williams & White. Within a year later the business was incorporated, and Mr. Ainsworth was elected secretary of the company, a position he held for about fifteen years,



HENRY A. AINSWORTH



when purchasing about three-fourths of its capital stock, he was elected president, a position he still retains. Under his general management the business has attained mammoth proportions, and is one of the leading industries of Moline. Soon after coming to Moline he took stock in the Moline National Bank, and also in the Moline Savings Bank, and for some years served as director and vice president of both institutions. His ability as a financier and good executive ability were recognized by his associates, and in 1894 he was elected president of the former institution, a position he is well qualified to fill. On his election as president of the Moline National Bank, he resigned the vice-presidency of the Moline Savings Bank, but was retained in its directory. April, 1892, he resigned as president of the Moline National Bank, when it was changed to Moline Trust and Savings Bank. He was elected president of that bank in 1894 and still holds that position.

On the 28th of July, 1858, Mr. Ainsworth was married at Ashland, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Andrews, a native of Ohio, and a sister of Mr. Andrews, president then of Kenyon College. After a happy married life of thirty-three years, Mrs. Ainsworth was called to her reward, dying in a hospital at Chicago, leaving two children, Harry and Mary. The former is a graduate of Oberlin College, and of the law department of Harvard University. He is a man of exceptionally good business ability, and is now secretary of the Williams & White Company. Mary is also a graduate of Oberlin College, and is a woman of rare attainments. At present she is making a tour in Europe. Mrs. Ainsworth was a sincere and honest Christian woman, one who delighted in the service of the Master, and when the summons came she was ready to go, having that perfect confidence and trust in the Blessed Redeemer and the life beyond the grave.

For his second wife, Mr. Ainsworth wedded

Miss Sarah F. Anderson, June 30, 1896. She was born in Bucyrus, Ohio; moved to Geneseo, Illinois, in early life, and was a graduate of Rockford Female College. A teacher of recognized ability, a woman of grace and refinement, and of good executive ability, she was called to the presidency of her alma mater, and for six years occupied that position. She was still serving as such when her marriage with Mr. Ainsworth occurred. In February, 1896, Beloit College conferred on her the degree of M. A., a degree worthily bestowed.

Mr. Ainsworth has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs, though never to the neglect of his business interests. He believes it the duty of every American citizen to keep posted and act intelligently upon all questions affecting the people, and in pursuance of that idea he carefully reads the current literature of the day, and attends the public speaking as his time will admit.

The conventions of his party he also attends, more frequently as a delegate than otherwise. Politically he is a strong Republican. Attaining his majority the year that party occurred, he gave adhesion to its principles, and has never deviated therefrom.

While a resident of Geneseo, Mr. Ainsworth was elected a member of the board of village trustees, and was the youngest member of that body. For six years he was a member of the state board of equalization, and was state senator from the Moline District from 1882 to 1886. He was later appointed by Governor Fifer president of the state board of labor statistics, which office he resigned when Altgeld was elected governor. In every position filled he discharged its duties faithfully and well, and to the satisfaction of all interested.

Religiously, Mr. Ainsworth and family are members of the First Congregational Church, of Moline, and in the work of the church he has always manifested an interest, being among its most liberal contributors. Fra-



ternally, he is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of both the Blue Lodge and Chapter at Moline. In the former body he is now past master. As a citizen he has ever taken a lively interest in every enterprise calculated to build up his adopted city and county, and few men have a wider circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the state.

### HARRY AINSWORTH.

**A**MONG the leading manufacturers of Moline, Illinois, is Mr. Harry Ainsworth, vice-president of Williams, White & Company, manufacturers of heavy machine tools.

Mr. Ainsworth was born at Geneseo, Illinois, May 9, 1862. He is the son of Henry A. Ainsworth (whose biography appears in this book) and Sarah A., his wife. He was educated in Oberlin College (class of 1884) and Harvard Law School (class of 1887).

Although admitted to the bar of the State of Illinois, Mr. Ainsworth never practiced, but instead entered the office of Williams, White & Company with his father, where he has continued ever since as secretary, treasurer and vice president.

Mr. Ainsworth has served as secretary of the Tri-City Manufacturers' Association for a number of years; also as member of the public library board, of which he is now president.

He is a member of the First Congregational Church of Moline, in which he has served in various offices, being now and for years past, superintendent of the Sunday School.

In politics Mr. Ainsworth is a Republican, though independent, when his judgment prompts him to assert such independence.

Mr. Ainsworth was married to Stella A. Davidson, the daughter of Mr. Orlando Davidson, banker, of Elgin, Illinois, in the year

1889. In this connection it is interesting to state that Mrs. Ainsworth's grandfather, on the maternal side, James T. Gifford, laid out the City of Elgin.

The children of this union are Caroline D., Sarah A., and Dorothy S.

### BEN C. HARTZ.

**O**NE OF the most extensive business enterprises conducted in the City of Rock Island is the wholesale drug house of Hartz & Bahnsen Company. It is a business that, although modest in its inception, has attained immense proportions, until today it occupies a magnificent four-story building on Third Avenue and Nineteenth Street, and for its successful operation requires the employment of a small army of clerks. It is one of the founders of this large concern and its president, whose life we propose to take up in this sketch, and as a specific example of what integrity, perseverance and industry can accomplish, it will certainly be of interest to every reader.

Ben C. Hartz was born December 5, 1856, in the town of Altona, Germany, his parents being J. H. and Theresa Hartz. The father was a contractor and manufacturer of furniture. He died in his native land of Germany in 1871. After his death the mother made her home with her children in Rock Island, passing away September, 1888.

Their son came in the United States in 1873 and located in Rock Island. Previous to leaving Germany, he had served an apprenticeship of three years in a wholesale and retail drug and paint business in Hamburg. Having thus fitted himself as a practical pharmacist he found no difficulty in obtaining employment in his chosen line upon coming to Rock Island, and after having served for six years in that capacity as an





MRS. THOMAS CAMPBELL.



THOMAS CAMPBELL.





employee of others, in 1879 he entered into partnership with F. W. Bahnsen in the retail drug business under the firm name of Hartz & Bahnsen. Their venture was a successful and prosperous one, and in 1891 they disposed of their retail drug business and incorporated as Hartz & Bahnsen Company, and from that date to the present time they have been actively engaged in the wholesale drug business exclusively. Upon the formation of the new corporation, Mr. Hartz was elected its president, an office that he has ever since held, devoting his time exclusively to the duties and responsibilities which necessarily devolved upon him.

In religious conviction Mr. Hartz is a Lutheran, and was confirmed in the Lutheran Evangelical Church. In politics he is a Republican. For twenty-seven years he has been a member of Ucal Lodge, No. 608, of Odd Fellows. He is also a director of the Rock Island Club. He is a progressive and respected citizen of Rock Island, and the business that he and his early partner, Mr. Bahnsen, have built up and carry on, stands as a monument to the business sagacity of both those gentlemen.

### THOMAS CAMPBELL.

THOMAS CAMPBELL, one of the best known citizens of Rock Island County was born January 9, 1842, in Ballyhaschin Parrish, County Down, Ireland. His parents were John and Margaret (McQuaid) Campbell, and of their union four children were born: Mary (now Mrs. Rutherford), Margaret (deceased), Robert and Thomas, the subject of this sketch.

The Campbells were originally from Scotland. About two centuries past the forebears of Thomas Campbell removed from Scotland and settled in the North of Ireland.

February 11, 1850, when Thomas Campbell was eight years of age, his parents, with their children, left Ireland for America, embarking on the Elizabeth Augusta, a sailing vessel bound for New Orleans. The journey consumed seven weeks and three days. Upon arriving at New Orleans the family, having determined to come to Rock Island, took boat and proceeded up the Mississippi, but at St. Louis the illness and death of the mother compelled a temporary cessation of journey. Mrs. Campbell was buried at St. Louis and the rest of the sorrowing family continued upon their way to Rock Island, which they reached May 3, 1850.

On the first of May the following year, Thomas Campbell was taken into the home of John A. Boyer and wife. He attended the common schools of Rock Island, going three or four months in the winter, and spending the other months in farm work. He made his home with the Boyers until the death of that couple. Having no children of their own, they had made Thomas Campbell their heir, and they left to him considerable property, consisting chiefly of real estate. He continued to live in the old Boyer homestead until 1901, when he built a new house about two hundred feet south of the old one and moved into it. This is the only time that Mr. Campbell has moved since he came to Rock Island in his boyhood.

On August 9, 1862, Mr. Campbell enlisted as a private in Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Seven companies were mustered in Rock Island County. All of them went to Dixon, Illinois, where they remained in camp three weeks. Then they were ordered to Chicago. While there one of the companies, (Capt. Williams') went into the Eighty-ninth Illinois, and another (Capt. Ashbaugh's) joined the Ninety-third Illinois. This left five companies from Rock Island County, and these, together with five companies from the southern part of state, formed the One Hundred and Twenty-

sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. While they were in camp at Chicago, Harper's Ferry had been taken. Some of the Union soldiers who were captured at that Confederate victory were paroled and sent to Chicago to Camp Douglas. One of them upon going to a sutler's tent to purchase tobacco was informed by the sutler's clerk that he "would not sell tobacco to a d--- coward." This insult spread through the camp like wildfire and everything in the tent was destroyed by the enraged soldiers, so keen was their resentment of the insult offered their comrade. The other sutlers' tents were guarded, or the same treatment would have been meted out to them. During this melee, through the accidental discharge of a soldier's musket, Mr. Campbell was wounded, the ball passing through his left knee joint and crippling him for life, from the effect of which in 1900 he had to have his limb amputated four inches above the knee-joint.

Mr. Campbell was married September 7, 1864, to Mary J. Carson. Seven children were born to them, all of them living but one, who was killed in a railroad accident February 19, 1904.

Mr. Campbell has devoted his life to farming, his farm being located just outside the city limits of Rock Island, and being known to this day as "the old Boyer place." For twenty-five years he has been crop correspondent for Rock Island County.

In politics Mr. Campbell is a Republican and has been frequently honored by his party, having held the offices of school director, road commissioner, supervisor, county treasurer in 1890, and on November 6, 1906, he was elected as a representative to the Illinois Legislature from the Thirty-third Senatorial District, which is composed of Rock Island, Mercer and Henderson Counties. His first presidential vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln on his second term, 1864.

Mr. Campbell is a member of John Buford Post, G. A. R. For about twenty years he

was elected quartermaster, then commander, and at the present time he is chaplain. He is also a member of the Old Settlers' Association.

He is affiliated with the First Baptist Church in Rock Island, and has been prominent in church work. For twelve years he has been a trustee and for ten years a deacon of his church.

### MANSFIELD M. STURGEON.

ONE of the most brilliant and astute attorneys practising at the Rock Island County Bar is Mansfield M. Sturgeon, senior member of the legal firm of Sturgeon, Stelck & Sturgeon, a man whose great ability and profound learning as an attorney has been demonstrated in the trial of many important suits, as well as in sound counsel and legal advice.

He was born September 10, 1843, at Letart Falls, Ohio, his parents, being Oliver Hazard Perry Sturgeon and Mary Ellenor (Summers) Sturgeon. The father was born March 14, 1818, at Sistersville, Virginia, the date of the marriage of the senior Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon being December 25, 1839. The death of the father occurred at Windom, Kansas, in 1902, he being then in his eighty-fifth year. The mother was born in Morgantown, Virginia, June 11, 1819. She is still living, and is in her eighty-eighth year.

The grandfather of our subject, William Sturgeon, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was with the land forces at Lake Erie when Commodore Perry won the memorable naval battle there. Hence when his son was born he bestowed upon him the somewhat lengthy name of Oliver Hazard Perry Sturgeon, in honor of his hero. This rather cumbersome cognomen was abbreviated by his boyhood companions to simply "Perry", and



M. M. STURGEON



by this name he was known throughout his life.

The Sturgeons were of Scotch-Irish ancestry, one of the members of that family settling in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in an early day. The great-grandfather of our subject was born in Uniontown. When a young man he erected a grist mill on the banks of Union Creek, and was engaged in the milling and general merchandise business for many years.

After the war of 1812 William Sturgeon was commissioned colonel of militia by the then Governor of Virginia. Under the old militia laws of that state, annual drills or musters were held, which all the able-bodied men subject to military duty were required to attend. Colonel Sturgeon held these musters either at Morgantown or else at Wheeling, at that time included in old Virginia, but now one of the principal cities in West Virginia. Colonel Sturgeon died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1855.

The family of our subject's mother was noted for longevity. His great-grandmother lived to be one hundred years old, and his great-great-grandmother was one hundred and one years of age at the time of her death.

In 1849, when Mansfield M. Sturgeon was six years of age, his parents removed from their Ohio home to St. Joseph, Missouri, and afterward to Rock Island, arriving in the latter city in 1851. This city has been Mr. Sturgeon's home ever since, with the exception of a few years just prior to, and during the first years of the Civil War, when his parents lived upon a farm in Buffalo Prairie Township in this county. He attended the public schools of Rock Island, and while his parents were upon the farm he attended the country schools of the lower end of the county and also a private academy at Edgington. After the close of the war he took a one year's course in the Rock River Seminary at Mount Morris, Illinois.

In June, 1862, he enlisted in Company F,

Sixty-ninth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry to serve for three months. The regiment was assigned to duty at Camp Douglas, Chicago, guarding rebel prisoners, of which there were about eight thousand detained at that camp. The time of Mr. Sturgeon's enlistment expired the following September, and upon its expiration he, together with others whose enlistments had expired, volunteered, before being mustered out of service, to guard rebel prisoners from Camp Douglas to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where they were to be exchanged. This expedition from Camp Douglas to Vicksburg took in all about six weeks.

In the early winter of 1863-1864 Mr. Sturgeon again enlisted, this time in Company H, Forty-fifth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, through Sergeant Wallace, who was then in Edgington upon recruiting service. After signing the enlistment roll Mr. Sturgeon heard nothing further in regard to the matter until the spring of 1864, when he received orders to report at Camp Yates, Springfield, Illinois. Upon reporting at Camp Yates he was assigned to the extremely unpleasant task of drilling raw recruits, which proved so exceedingly irksome and uncongenial that he longed to get away. Racking his brain in an endeavor to plan some way to obtain relief from the distasteful duty with the awkward squad, he one day chanced to meet Colonel E. M. Beardsley of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Colonel Beardsley had formerly been first lieutenant of Company F of the Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the company and regiment to which Mr. Sturgeon was attached upon his first enlistment, and the two men were also old friends. Mr. Sturgeon told the colonel how anxious he was to leave Springfield. Colonel Beardsley proposed that Mr. Sturgeon accompany him, as he (Beardsley) was about to leave Springfield to join his regiment which was then located at De Valls Bluff, Arkansas. This invitation was



eagerly accepted by the young man, and they then set about arranging for the transfer of Mr. Sturgeon to Colonel Beardsley's regiment. That same afternoon Mr. Sturgeon received orders to report to the adjutant general of the state. Arriving at his office he found Colonel Beardsley already there. Here Mr. Sturgeon's enlistment papers were changed from Company H, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry to Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. This concluded the necessary formalities, and Mr. Sturgeon accompanied Colonel Beardsley to De Valls Bluff, Arkansas. On the twenty-third of June, 1864, Mr. Sturgeon was in the engagement at Clarendon, Arkansas. Shortly afterward he was detailed for special duty in the provost marshal's office at De Valls Bluff, where he served as clerk until September of that same year. Then he was ordered to report to the provost marshal general of the Department of Arkansas, at Little Rock. He was assigned to duty in this office, and remained there until the close of the war.

After the close of the war, Mr. Sturgeon again resumed his residence in Rock Island County and has never changed it since. From 1866 to March, 1869, he taught school in the town of Milan. In the latter month and year he was appointed county superintendent of schools, to fill out the unexpired term of the Hon. Wm. H. Gest, who had resigned. Mr. Sturgeon studied law with the legal firm of Gest & Hawley and was admitted to the bar of Illinois in June, 1872. The fourth of July of that year he celebrated by opening a law office of his own and hanging out his sign "Mansfield M. Sturgeon, Lawyer."

On June 23, 1870, occurred the marriage of Mansfield M. Sturgeon and Miss Jennie B. Mattison, a young lady of Mount Morris, Illinois. To them four children were born; Grace M., the wife of J. S. Freeman, who resides in Moline; Mansfield, who died at the age of three and a half years; Rollin S., a graduate of Northwestern University and of

Harvard Law School, and who is now a member of the law firm of Sturgeon, Stelck & Sturgeon; and Miss Jennie B. Sturgeon, who is also a graduate of Northwestern University and who is now principal of the English Department of the Monmouth High School.

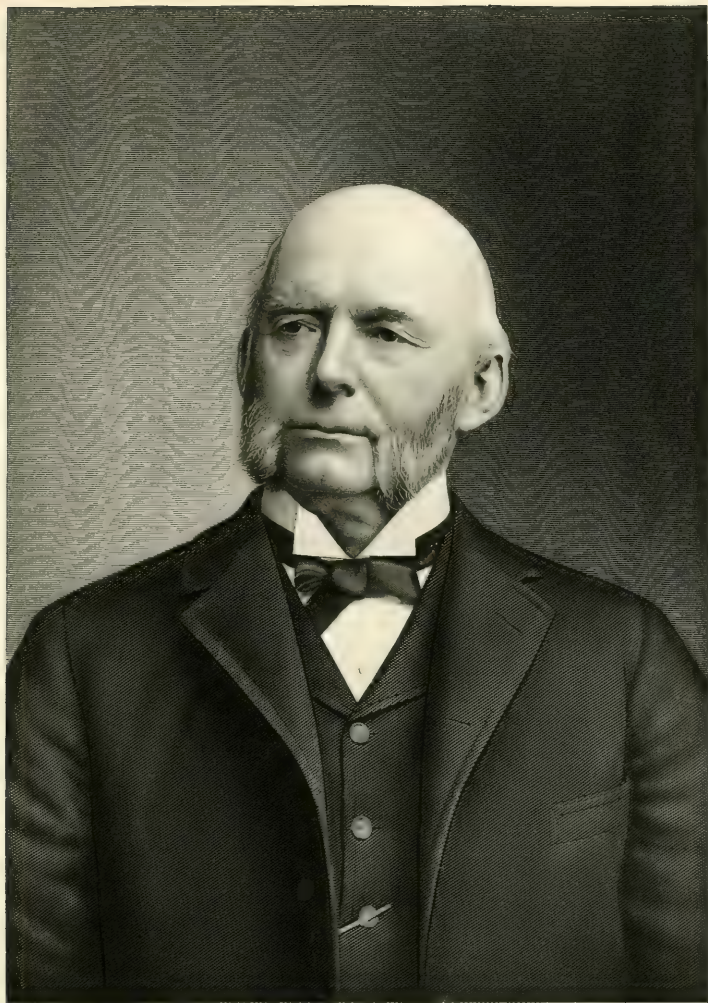
In politics Mr. Sturgeon has always been a staunch Republican, and he is recognized as one of the leaders of his party in Rock Island County. He has several times been honored by his party, the first time by the appointment as county superintendent of schools and afterwards by election to that office three successive terms; then by his election to the office of state's attorney for Rock Island County in 1888 to fill the unexpired term of Patrick O'Mara, who died a short time after being elected to office. Mr. Sturgeon served as state's attorney until 1892. He was a vigorous and efficient prosecutor and conducted the affairs of the office in a competent and lawyer-like manner. In 1892 he was elected a member of the state board of equalization for the Eleventh Congressional District of Illinois, and served until December 1, 1896.

As a lawyer Mansfield M. Sturgeon is beyond question the peer of any attorney practicing at the Rock Island County Bar. Although a brilliant man and a talented lawyer he is modest and unassuming, and without the slightest trace of ostentation in his manner. He has a large number of friends throughout Rock Island County, and is counted one of the good, substantial citizens in the community in which he resides.



#### STEPHEN HENRY VELIE.

THE City of Moline owes its prominence throughout the United States, and in fact, throughout the entire civilized world, chiefly to its manufactories. And to Stephen Henry Velie, deceased, who, during



*E. A. Allen*



his life, was conspicuously identified with several of that city's leading manufacturing establishments, Moline is greatly indebted for the preeminence she now maintains in industrial enterprise.

Mr. Velie was born April 21, 1830, near Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, his boyhood, until he arrived at the age of fifteen years, being spent upon his father's farm in that county. During this period he attended the public schools of that locality. In 1845 he went to New York City, where he made his home with his grandfather, Stephen Herriek, who was engaged in the commission business. While with his grandfather, Mr. Velie obtained valuable business training and experience which was of great advantage to him in later life. After remaining for some time in the home of his grandfather, Mr. Velie went to Poughkeepsie in the same state, and in 1847 came west, locating in St. Louis, Missouri. Here he was employed in the wholesale grocery house of Edward J. Gay & Company. Mr. Gay, the head of the firm, made his home in Louisiana, and was afterwards elected to congress from his district in that state. At this time Mr. Velie lived with him at his Louisiana home and managed his large plantation for a period of two years during his employer's term in congress. He again returned to St. Louis where he remained until 1854 when he came to Rock Island. For five years after removing to this city he had charge of the C. C. Webber & Company's foundry, at the expiration of which time he went to Princeton, Illinois, where he was for two years engaged in the mercantile business.

In 1863 Mr. Velie returned to this locality and entered into partnership with John Deere, the pioneer plow manufacturer of the west. In 1868, when the concern was incorporated, Mr. Velie was elected to the offices of secretary and treasurer and held that position until the time of his death, which occurred February 14, 1895.

In addition to the responsibilities and duties devolving upon him in consequence of his connection with Deere & Company, Mr. Velie was largely interested in numerous other financial and manufacturing enterprises. These interests and holdings he acquired from time to time during his life in consequence of his business judgment and acumen in commercial affairs. Every enterprise with which he identified himself prospered, and as the substantial fruits of these increased, Mr. Velie was constantly seeking new fields of investment for his large returns, so that at the time of his death, Mr. Velie, in addition to possessing large lumber holdings in the south, was interested in the stone quarries at Le Claire, Iowa, as president of the Moline Central Railway Company, the Moline Water Power Company and the Peoples Power Company.

On May 10, 1860, Mr. Velie married Miss Emma C. Deere, daughter of John Deere, the founder of Moline's great plow works, and of this marriage five children were born, they being Charles Deere Velie, one of the present managers of Deere & Company's branch house at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Stephen Henry, Jr., manager of that firm's branch house at Kansas City, Missouri, and also of the Velie Harness Company of the same city; Willard Lamb, president of the Velie Carriage Company, of Moline; John Deere Velie, who died August 14, 1870, and Grace Deere Velie, the wife of Stuart Harper of Rock Island.

In politics Mr. Velie was originally a Whig, but later joined the ranks of the newly formed Republican party which had taken a firm and decided stand against the iniquity of the ownership of human beings. To this latter party he gave his allegiance and support throughout his remaining years, always rejoicing in its successes and lamenting its defeats. He was constantly contributing both his personal influence and his means to his party's cause, but never sought political honor for himself, the only public office he

ever held being that of a director of the Moline Public Library, to which he was chosen when that institution was first organized.

Mr. Velie was a man of religious conviction and was a consistent member of the Congregational Church at Moline, and in maintaining and furthering church work, he was always a liberal contributor.

He was a Mason, belonging to the Order of Knights Templar and was also an Odd Fellow, and in his fraternal, as well as in his domestic business, political and other relations in life, he set and maintained a high standard for himself.

Mr. Velie was a large employer of labor, with whom he dealt fairly, equitably and liberally, and with whom his relations and dealings were at all times fraternal and never tyrannical.

He was a splendid type of citizen. He possessed a broad and comprehensive understanding of the trend of public events. Although actively engaged in business, with great interests demanding his most careful attention, he never became so engrossed in matters pertaining to finance or commerce that he was difficult of approach. He was a man of suave and genial temperament, ready to help those less fortunate than himself, and to help them in the way best suited to their peculiar need. In his hours of relaxation, he was a most delightful companion having the rare power of discovering and adapting himself to the environment he might be placed in, and so he was held in warm regard by all who knew him as a man of great congeniality. He was devotedly attached to his home and family, and in return he reaped the reward of their enduring devotion. The best biography of Stephen Henry Velie is written in the memory of those who knew him, and, knowing him, found him to be possessed of those qualities that are found only in a high standard of manhood.

## COLONEL ELHANAN JOHN SEARLE.

SOLDIER, jurist and publicist, a man of many attainments and widely diversified talent, was Elhanan J. Searle, the subject of this sketch. He was born January 18, 1835, at Royalton, Ohio, coming to Rock Island County with his parents when about two years of age, and died at Rock Island, August 18, 1906. Colonel Searle, or Judge Searle as he was perhaps more familiarly known throughout Rock Island County, received his education at the Rock River Seminary, an institution located at Mount Morris, Illinois, and after completing his studies in that school, which was largely preparatory in its scope, he entered Northwestern University at Evanston; from which institution he graduated with the highest honors of his class; and at the time of his death was the oldest alumnus of that institution. After the completion of his collegiate course he decided to fit himself for entrance to the legal profession, and with that end in view he entered the law office of John L. Beveridge, afterwards Governor of Illinois, at Chicago. He remained in Mr. Beveridge's office until November, 1859, when he entered the law office of Abraham Lincoln and William H. Herndon, the firm being known as Lincoln & Herndon, at Springfield, and here he remained continuing the study of his chosen profession until March, 1861. Daily association with a character such as Abraham Lincoln's and the intimacy naturally arising from their relation as student and mentor, must have made a deep impression upon the young man, and doubtless exerted a formative influence upon the whole course of his after life. As we can view it now, such an opportunity was a priceless one, and even in those days it was a most excellent thing for any young man aspiring to become a lawyer, to be taken into the office of Lincoln & Herndon, for Abraham Lincoln was then recognized as one of





COLONEL ELHANAN JOHN SEARLE



the leaders of the Illinois Bar, although Lincoln, the lawyer, is now overshadowed by that more majestic and sublimely beautiful character as president and martyr. The intimacy thus arising between Abraham Lincoln and his student continued until the tragic death of the president, considerable correspondence passing between the two.

On September 23, 1861, Elhanan J. Searle, declining preferment tendered him by President Lincoln, enlisted in Company H, Tenth Illinois Cavalry, at Springfield as a private. He served in that capacity until July 7, 1862, when he was made captain of his company. His duties carried him into Arkansas as a recruiting officer. He was instrumental in recruiting and sending into the field the First Arkansas Infantry, and the Second and Fourth Arkansas Cavalry, these regiments being organized largely from the mountainous districts of the Ozarks. Upon its organization, he was made lieutenant-colonel of the First Arkansas Infantry, and was in command of that regiment for the greater part of three years, the colonel, himself, being absent from his command, and his duties naturally devolving upon the officer next in rank. Colonel Searle was a brave and gallant soldier, and while in command of his regiment, he made for himself a most excellent record, participating in more than forty engagements and skirmishes, and being fairly idolized by his men. Although always in the thick of the fight, Colonel Searle escaped injury, although in different battles three horses were shot from under him. He often acted as brigadier-general in command of the brigade of which his regiment formed a part, and was placed in command of a number of important posts. For several months he was provost-marshal of a military department, and frequently was called upon to act as a member of military commissions and court-martials. At the close of the war, Colonel Searle was honorably discharged from the service, the date of his discharge being August 10, 1865.

Upon laying aside the sword, Colonel Searle settled at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and here he entered upon the practice of that profession which he had temporarily put aside to take up the sterner duties of war. On February 19, 1866, he was commissioned prosecuting attorney for the Ninth Judicial District of Arkansas, a district which comprised eight counties. Some time after this he was appointed United States Commissioner for the Western District of Arkansas, which included not only the western part of Arkansas, but all of Indian Territory as well. He served as assistant United States District Attorney in addition to the duties of the latter office until January 1, 1867, when he was commissioned by the provisional governor of Arkansas as circuit judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of that state, his appointment being approved by the United States military authorities. He served as circuit judge until February 10, 1871, when he was appointed as one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. This appointment was for a term of two years, and at its expiration he was elected to succeed himself for a term of eight years, but this latter term was cut short by the adoption of a new state constitution, which prescribed different regulations in regard to the selection of the supreme court.

For several years Colonel Searle was a member of the Arkansas State Board of Education and also a member of the board of trustees of the Arkansas State University, which latter institution he helped to found, and of which he drafted the plan of government and instruction to be followed in all departments. He was also a member of the executive and building committees of the board of trustees of that institution.

In 1875 Colonel Searle returned to Illinois, locating at Chicago, where he practiced law for a few years, taking part as counsel in a number of important cases, and taking an active part in the Hayes-Tilden campaign, filling nearly all the speaking engagements of

John A. Logan, who was ill. Later he practiced law for a time in St. Louis, and then in Pana, Illinois, till 1885. He then spent two years in travel, and in 1887 returned to his old home in Rock Island County, purchasing the well known Rodman home in Rock Island, and here he resided until his death. He also purchased the valuable farm in Zuma Township, Rock Island County, upon which he had spent his boyhood.

On April 1, 1863, Colonel Searle was married to Miss Cassie R. Pierce, who survives him, the marriage ceremony occurring at Springfield. Of this union six children were born, two of whom are still living, Hon. Charles J. Searle and Miss Blanche Searle, both of Rock Island.

The recent death of Colonel Searle removes from life's activities one of the few remaining links between the past and the present. He was a gentleman of the old school, modest, dignified, kind and courteous, and a delightful social companion among his friends. He was full of reminiscence and anecdote, and was a man of profound learning and broad general information. Upon political subjects and as a close student of times and conditions he was particularly well informed. Upon his return to Rock Island he lived in practical retirement, but his interest in political and economic questions was keen and to these subjects he devoted much thought. He was a man of the highest ideals, and deplored deeply the materialistic trend which he believed the country was pursuing, feeling that it would work prejudice and finally, if unchecked, ruin to the Republic. But although foreseeing these dangers, Colonel Searle was by no means a pessimist. He supported men rather than party, and although a Republican, was moulded after the type of those party leaders who believe in progress and reform. He was an ideal citizen, broad, intelligent and patriotic, a noble example of upright, conscientious manhood.

## SAMUEL SHARPE DAVIS.

IN considering those among Rock Island's citizens whose activities have been directed toward developing that city's industries, and whose foresight has been rewarded in a most substantial manner, one's mind instinctively turns to the subject of our present sketch, Samuel Sharpe Davis.

He was born February 1, 1858, at Covington, Kentucky, his parents being John B. and Anna E. (Sharpe) Davis. To this couple three children were born: Thomas B., Samuel S. and Mary. The parents were of Scotch-Irish origin. Thomas Bodley Davis, the paternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania. In early life he moved to Kentucky, and for some years served as captain of a steam boat plying between Pittsburg and New Orleans on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Upon one of the trips up river from New Orleans he was stricken with yellow fever, and died before the completion of the journey. At the time of his death he was thirty-four years of age.

The maternal grandfather, Samuel K. Sharpe, was a native of Kentucky. He was a practicing physician and surgeon. The greater part of his life was spent in Maysville, Kentucky. He removed to Rock Island with his wife in 1875. Her death occurred in 1881 at the age of seventy-six years. Her husband survived her nine years, his death occurring in Rock Island in 1890, at the extreme age of ninety years. Dr. Sharpe was a remarkably strong man, both physically and mentally and was of pronounced religious conviction, giving his adherence to the Presbyterian faith. In politics he was a Democrat.

John B. Davis, the father of our subject, followed the calling of his father, that of a river captain, almost his entire life, principally upon the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. For some time he had charge of Canadian

Government boats carrying the supplies of the Hudson Bay Fur Company on the Sackatchewan River. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to the rank of major and for nearly three years he served with his regiment. He was with his regiment in the battles of Chickamauga, Mill Springs, Corinth and Tullahoma. At the battle of Chickamauga he was wounded. During the time that Major Davis served with his regiment it was attached first to the command of General Buell and later to that of General Thomas.

After the close of the Civil War Major Davis, went to Augusta, Arkansas, and later located at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1868. He settled permanently in Rock Island in 1874. He spent the greater portion of his life upon the river in command of the different river packets. After coming to Rock Island he was one of the Diamond Jo Line captains until about one year before his death, which occurred in 1890, when he was sixty-one years of age. His wife still makes Rock Island her home. Politically Major Davis was a staunch Democrat. He was a prominent Mason and a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, in which faith he died.

Having thus passed rapidly over the points of interest in the lives of the forebears of our subject, we now come to treat of his life. His education was obtained in the schools of Memphis, Tennessee, and in Rock Island. In 1873 he was employed as clerk on the steamer "Montana," a boat commanded by his father. He continued in this service for several seasons, attending school during the winter months. In 1876 his father had a Government contract to carry supplies from Bismarck, Dakota, up the Missouri, Yellowstone and Big Horn Rivers to the place where the Custer massacre occurred. Upon this expedition he was accompanied by his son. Upon their return to Rock Island the son was employed as clerk for J. H. Langley, who was

agent for a line of boats in the St. Louis and St. Paul trade. On January 1, 1878, he was employed by Thomas Yates, in Moline, where he was engaged in the plumbing and steam fitting business. He continued in this employment until the death of Mr. Yates, which occurred in 1881. Mr. Davis and his brother, Thomas B. Davis, had obtained a number of valuable patents upon steam appliances, and together with Jacob Riley, of Rock Island, they formed a partnership known as Davis & Company. They bought out the business interests of the Yates estate, both in Rock Island and Moline. In 1882 the Davis brothers bought out Mr. Riley's interest in the business and continued it themselves until 1891, when the Davis Company was incorporated by them.

Meanwhile our subject was engaged in many important operations. He planned and superintended the construction of the Moline Waterworks, which was begun in the spring of 1884. He also installed the first electric light plant in the City of Moline. In 1886 he constructed the Davis Block in that city, and as secretary and manager of the Merchants' Electric Light Company lighted the streets of Moline. Eighty arc lights were installed, which superseded the old street gas lamps with which the city had formerly been lighted.

In 1887 the Peoples' Light and Fuel Manufacturing Company was organized. Of this organization Mr. Davis was elected secretary and general manager. He purchased the stock of the Moline Gas and Coke Company and merged the institution with that of the Merchants' Electric Light Company.

In 1888 the Merchants' Electric Light Company of Rock Island was organized. In the autumn of that same year a power plant was erected in Moline so arranged as to utilize that city's splendid water power in its operation. The machinery of the Peoples' Light and Fuel Manufacturing Company of Moline, as well as that of the Merchants' Electric



Light Company of Rock Island, was removed to this new power plant. This arrangement led up to the formation of the Peoples' Power Company in 1893. This latter organization, which included the companies in which Mr. Davis was already interested, bought out the Rock Island Brush Electric Light Company and the Rock Island Gas and Coke Company. Both of these plants were removed to Moline, where they were located at the foot of Fourth Street in that city. Mr. Davis planned the reorganization and also the construction of the new plants. He sold his interests in the Peoples' Power Company in 1906.

On September 21, 1892, occurred the marriage of Samuel Sharpe Davis and Miss Apollonia Weyerhaeuser, the daughter of Fredrick and Sarah Weyerhaeuser. One child has been born of this marriage, a son, Edwin W. Davis.

Mr. Davis in his church allegiance is a Presbyterian, and is a trustee of the Broadway Presbyterian Church, of Rock Island. In politics he is a Democrat, but he has never desired or held public office. Fraternally he is a member of Trio Lodge No. 57, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Barrett Chapter No. 18, and of Evarts Commandry No. 18, Knights Templar. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America. Such are the interesting events in the career of a man, who through business sagacity and acumen, has risen to a commanding position in this locality's financial and industrial circles. Mr. Davis is a man universally liked by all who are acquainted with him. Although at all times a busy man he is easily approachable. In manner he is unassuming and without ostentation. He is one of Rock Island's most public spirited and progressive citizens, and no movement for the real advancement of the city is launched that does not receive his active and hearty cooperation, and where the project is one that requires financial subscription his gift is always a liberal one. In fine

it may be said that Mr. Davis is pre-eminently an organizer and an executive, a man of great business talent, and a courteous, kindly gentleman.

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### W. E. TAYLOR, M. D.

PLACED at the head of a great state charitable institution, carrying the responsibility for the welfare of hundreds of unfortunates whose reason has been shattered, and imbued with an earnest desire to restore his unfortunate charges to health and friends, stands Doctor W. E. Taylor, superintendent of the Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane at Watertown.

He was born at Waukesha, Wisconsin, May 24, 1854, where his parents, E. T. and Esibell (Irving) Taylor resided. Here his boyhood was spent, and after thoroughly fitting himself in preparatory schools, he entered the University of Wisconsin, and upon completing a course in that institution, took up the study of medicine at the Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago, from which he graduated. After his graduation, he began the practice of his chosen profession at Monmouth, Illinois, and remained in that city until his appointment as superintendent of the Watertown Hospital for the Insane in 1897, which position he still holds.

August 5, 1879, he was married to Miss Vagima McCleary, and of this union two sons have been born, Don and Mac Taylor.

Dr. Taylor is a Republican and is prominent in the councils of his party, not merely locally, but throughout the State of Illinois. During the time he resided in Monmouth, he was at the head of the health department of that city for ten years, and was mayor of Monmouth for two years. In 1896 he was a presidential elector. He has campaigned throughout the state for his party every year since 1884.



ALEXANDER E. MONTGOMERY.



He is recognized throughout the medical profession in the United States as an authority on nervous diseases and disorders, and has a chair on nervous diseases in the Hahnemann Medical College, his own alma mater.

Those who have talked with Dr. Taylor upon his specialty in the field of medicine, know how devoted he is to the study of the human, both in its normal and abnormal conditions. He is a broad investigator and is constantly striving to discover and put into practical use new means and methods of successfully treating the mental ills of those upon whose reason a cloud has fallen, and in his chosen field he has been eminently successful, and the number of cures that have been effected in the Watertown institution is truly remarkable. During his administration several new and commodious buildings have been added and the possibilities of the asylum for doing effective work have been greatly increased. Another thing that is deserving of special mention is the fact that during the time Dr. Taylor has been in charge of this institution, not one breath of scandal has even been whispered concerning the manner of administration or the treatment of patients. Nothing of gloom or despair pervades this asylum, but throughout each department there exists that spirit of helpful co-operation among the superintendent, physicians and other employees, who unite in a determined effort to seek and find the best means of aiding in the restoration of impaired reason.



### ALEXANDER E. MONTGOMERY.

ALEXANDER E. MONTGOMERY, well and favorably known for a generation past in Moline and Rock Island, was born February 2, 1831, in County Down, Ireland, and died in the City of Moline, Illinois, at his daughter's (Mrs. Thornton's) home, on Twelfth Avenue, July 17, 1906. His

father and mother, James and Margaret (nee Ewart,) were natives of Scotland, descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry, of honorable history.

Mr. Montgomery received a common school education in his native land. In the year 1849, at fourteen years of age, he immigrated to New York City, and entered the service of the United States Hotel as bookkeeper. In the year 1853 he came west, and for seventeen years succeeding, lived on a farm in Rural Township, Illinois. At the expiration of this period, in 1870, Mr. Montgomery sold his farm, removed to Rock Island, and entered upon contract work for the United States Government, in connection with which he built the excellent rock road, which traverses the Arsenal between Moline and Davenport approaches. During the first year in this employment he resided part of the time in Rock Island and part of the time in Davenport; then taking up his abode in a dwelling on the Arsenal Island, belonging to the government, he continued in that residence until the house burned down July 21, 1898. Thenceforth Mr. Montgomery resided in Moline until his death, continuing an unbroken service with the government for the prolonged period of thirty-four years, during the earlier portion at the Arsenal Shops, and latterly as guard at the Moline Bridge, where his honest Scotch face and sturdy figure were a familiar and welcome object to the multitudes who passed his watch daily through many years.

Republican in politics, Mr. Montgomery never sought nor cared for office, being well content to pursue the even tenor of a quiet, industrious life, in the bosom of his family, and enjoying the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

He was a devoted member of the United Presbyterian Church, and had the satisfaction of participating in the building of the beautiful church edifice and fine parsonage which were finished only recently, and of

worshiping to the end with his sons and daughters (whose biographical sketches appear in this book) about him.

Mr. Montgomery was an active member of the Knights of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, was a charter member and grand commander of McLean Lodge, No. 26, of Moline, serving two years as commander and nine years as treasurer.

Mr. Montgomery was married to Miss Margaret King in New York City, July 5, 1850. Mrs. Montgomery was also a native of Ireland, born in County Armagh, and immigrating to America in 1848, one year in advance of him who was to become her husband, and with whom she lived in ideal conjugal happiness until her lamented death, April 14, 1903.

Eight children, four boys and four girls, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery: Martha J., widow of Mr. John H. Thornton; Miss Lizzie; Maggie, wife of Mr. George W. Brooks; Alexander E., secretary and treasurer of the Moline Elevator Company; James T., who was, before his demise, president of the same, and who died August 4, 1906; Robert J., superintendent of construction for the same, and Samuel H., president of the company. One girl died in infancy in New York.

All these surviving offspring reside in Moline, and all are actively connected with the flourishing manufacturing business, the growth and firm establishment of which their honored father watched with paternal solicitude from its beginning. At the time of his death, his hopes for his family were realized and he was well content.

#### HON. WILLIAM JACKSON.

**A**MONG the old settlers of Rock Island County, who has assisted during his residence here in accomplishing many permanent reforms, is the Hon. William Jackson, who is entitled to honorable mention.

Mr. Jackson was born in the City of Liverpool, England, August 14, 1834, of English parentage. His early boyhood was spent in his native city. After leaving school, the last being the Liverpool Collegiate Institution, he was, at an early age, apprenticed to a grocer. Serving part of his apprenticeship, and being very desirous of trying his fortune in the new world, where he had many relatives, he left the 28th of May, 1851, his native city and landed in New York, July 2, of the same year. The great west being his objective point he arrived in the County of Rock Island in August of the same year.

In April, 1852, he came to the City of Moline where he first engaged in service in the plow factory of John Deere, then in its infancy, working there one year, during which time he performed alone particular labor which requires now in the extensive Deere Plow Works the labor of many persons. During the succeeding years he worked in the Sears Mill, of Moline, until the fall of 1858, when he commenced the study of the law. He was admitted to practice in 1860, and then formed a law partnership with James Chapman of that city.

In 1862 Mr. Jackson moved to the City of Rock Island. In 1864 he formed a law partnership with E. D. Sweeney, Esquire, under the firm name of Sweeney & Jackson. About 1876 Mr. C. L. Walker entered the firm, which was afterwards known as Sweeney, Jackson & Walker. The firm continued until 1883. Mr. Jackson then retiring on account of ill health.

In 1888 he formed a law partnership with E. W. Hurst, Esquire, under the name of Jackson & Hurst, which continued to 1903, when the firm was enlarged, being now known as Jackson, Hurst & Stafford.

In the practice of his chosen profession Mr. Jackson has had his fair measure of success, having been engaged in many important suits. At the present time he is in active practice and one of the local attorneys of





WILLIAM JACKSON



the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway.

May 21, 1863, he was married to Miss Jennie E. Sammis, one of the teachers in the public schools of Rock Island. Mrs. Jackson was born in the City of New York. Two children are living, Mrs. Carrie A. Barth and Mrs. Hattie J. Babcock.

In politics he is and always has been a Republican; in church association for fifty-eight years a Methodist, and is now a member of the official board of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Island. During his life Mr. Jackson has held two important offices: postmaster of the City of Rock Island from 1873 to 1876, and member of the board of managers of the Illinois State Reformatory from 1897 to 1901. At present he is president of the board of park commissioners of the City of Rock Island, a work in which he takes great interest as shown in the improvement and beautifying of Spencer Square, which was done under his direction.

Mr. Jackson has always aimed to advance the best interests of the city of his residence, believing that the community in which he has lived, and which has liberally contributed to whatever success he has attained, deserved on his part a reciprocal obligation.



### MAJOR HENRY CLAY CONNELLY.

THE record of Major Henry Clay Connelly, both as a soldier and as a civilian, is a brilliant one and will live long after he has passed to another world. His father was James Connelly, a son of Bernard Connelly, who settled in Philadelphia about 1800. He afterwards located in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where, as a dealer in live stock he became successful. His wife, of English birth, was a Miss Eggleton. She was the first member of the Episcopal Church of England in that county and for many years the only one. James Connelly arrived at manhood in Somerset County and aided his father

in the management of his interests. Some years later he moved to Petersburg, a village in Somerset County lying on the Great National Road, where he became influential and prosperous. He was one of the original promoters and builders of the National Road and was a leading citizen of that locality. His wife was Marie Hugus, her progenitors on both sides being of the sturdy and fearless Huguenot stock, patriots whose zeal and sacrifices have carved for them an imperishable name throughout Christendom. Several of her ancestors, the Hugus and Ankeny families, were Revolutionary soldiers. Peter Ankeny, our subject's great-grand-father, was a captain in the Revolutionary War under Washington. His wife was a Miss Rosa Bonnet, a member of the historical French family.

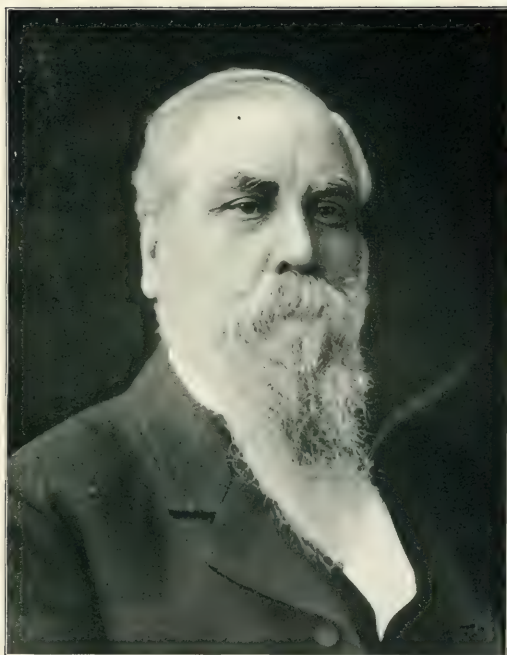
Major Henry Clay Connelly was born in Petersburg, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1831, and was the fourth in order of a family of eight children. It was there he spent his boyhood days until the death of his father, after which his mother moved to the town of Somerset. There the children of Mrs. Connelly were given the best educational advantages obtainable, and there Major Connelly graduated from the Somerset Academy. After leaving school he mastered the art of printing in the office of the *Somerset Visitor*, then published and edited by General A. H. Coffroth, who afterwards became distinguished and was pallbearer at President Lincoln's funeral when a member of Congress. At the age of twenty, Mr. Connelly was a half-owner and editor of the *Beaver Star*. Two years and a half later he disposed of his interest in that newspaper, formed a partnership with Emanuel J. Pershing, and came to Rock Island where he has since resided. Arriving here February 18, 1855, he and Mr. Pershing published the *Weekly Rock Islander*. They established a daily in May, 1855. Bound volumes of this paper can now be seen in the Public Library, in which will be found the various incidents

of life at that early day. In the year 1857, Mr. Connelly and his partner purchased the *Argus* and consolidated the two papers under the title of the *Islander and Argus*.

In the year 1858 Mr. Connelly commenced reading law with Judge J. W. Drury. He did not, however, sever his connection with the newspaper until September, 1859. He was admitted to the bar in January, 1860, and remained in legal harness until September 12, 1862, when he entered the Union Army. At that date he did not dream of the future that awaited him, and of which the following gives an insight of the numerous battles in which he participated: Celina, Tennessee, April 18, 19, 1862; Turkey Neck Bend, Tennessee, pursuit of Colonel Hamilton's troops, June 12, 1863; Morgan's raid through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, July 1-26, 1863; Marrowbone or Burksville, Kentucky, (Morgan's raid), July 2, 1863; Buffington Island, or St. George Creek, Ohio (Morgan's raid), July 19, 1863; Washington, Ohio (Morgan's raid), July 24, 1863; near Salineville, Ohio, (Morgan captured), July 26, 1863; Knoxville, Tennessee, (city captured), September 1, 1863; Powell's River, Tennessee, September 6, 1863; Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, (assaulted and captured under General Burnside), September 9, 1863; Kingsport, Tennessee, September 17, 1863; Bristol, Tennessee, September 19, 1863; Zollicoffer, Tennessee, September 20, 1863; Blountville, Tennessee, September 22, 1863; Blue Spring, Tennessee, (under General Burnside), October 10, 1863; Bristol Station, Tennessee, October 14, 1863; New Madrid, Tennessee, October 22, 1863; Holsten River, near Knoxville, Tennessee, November 15, 1863; Campbell's Station, Tennessee, November 17, 18, 1863; siege of Knoxville, Tennessee, (under General Burnside), November, 1863; Walker's Ford, or Clinch River, Tennessee, December 1, 2, 1863; Clinch Mountain, Tennessee, December 6, 1863; Bean Station, Tennessee, December 14, 1863; Blaine's Cross Roads, Tennessee, December 16, 1863; Mossy Creek, Tennessee,

December 26, 1863; Dandridge, Tennessee, December 29, 1863; Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, January 10, 1864; Dandridge, Tennessee (second fight), January 16, 17, 1864; Fairgarden, French Broad, or Kelly's Ford, Tennessee, January 27, 1864; Sevierville, Tennessee, January 28, 1864; Cherokee Indian Battle, North Carolina, February 2, 1864; Battle of Atlanta, Georgia, July 22, 1864; on the retreat when General Hood advanced from the Tennessee River to Columbia on Waynesborough Road, Tennessee, fighting General Forrest, November 22, 23, 24, 1864; Duck River, Tennessee, fighting General Forrest, November 28, 29, 1864; Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864; Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 15, 16, 1864; Franklin, Tennessee, December 17, 1864.

We take the following from the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, dated September 27, 1887: "Henry Clay Connelly is a member of General John Buford Post, No. 243, Rock Island, of which he was a charter member and its first commander. He is a delegate to the National Encampment which meets at St. Louis this month. He was commissioned second lieutenant of Company L, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, January 7th, 1863. In the spring the regiment went to the front, its first headquarters being Glasgow, Kentucky. While here the regiment was active in scouting, and the Confederate forces at Celina and near Turkey Neck Bend, on the Cumberland River, were attacked and routed. The next work was the pursuit of General Morgan and his cavalry command for twenty-eight days and nights, the battle of Buffington Island, in Ohio, and the capture of Morgan and most of his command. Lieutenant Connelly was present at the capture. In August, under General Burnside, the Union forces went to East Tennessee. With the advance guard, Lieutenant Connelly entered Knoxville September 1st, General Burnside arriving on the 3d. He heard the last toot of the last Confederate locomotive of General Buckner,



MAJOR HENRY C CONNELLY





commanding the Confederates, sounded in Knoxville. He was at the taking of Cumberland Gap, at Bristol, and at the numerous encounters in that locality; at the defense of Knoxville and its incidents; at Bean Station, at Dandridge, Fair Garden, Walker's Ford, Strawberry Plains, and at the battle with Thomas' Cherokee Indians in North Carolina. During the East Tennessee campaign he was placed in charge of a battery of artillery. On the Indian raid, after following a mountainous Indian trail, on the 2d of February the Cherokees were surprised in their camp, attacked and the legion cut to pieces, many of them being killed or captured. Lieutenant Connelly had with him only a part of his battery. Herculean efforts were required to take the guns and caissons over the great mountains and through the deep ravines, but the work was successfully accomplished. General Grant, in a special dispatch, highly complimented the Fourteenth for this work. Major Connelly received his commission as captain after this expedition, being promoted over his first lieutenant. He did duty at brigade and division headquarters as assistant adjutant general and also as inspector. He participated in the Atlanta campaign; and on the Macon raid his regiment, being in General Stoneman's command, shared in the misfortunes of this officer, but only after it had cut its way out in a splendid charge. Being dismounted by reason of loss of horses on the Macon raid, the regiment did duty as infantry at the siege of Atlanta, and was one of the first which entered the city after its fall. Being remounted and re-equipped, about the 1st of November, 1864, it took a position on the right of the Union Army on the Tennessee River to watch the advance of General Hood's great army. From this river to Columbia, Major Connelly day and night was with the rear guard, being repeatedly surrounded. With splendid courage his command charged the Confederate lines with success. Near Mount Pleasant, and also Duck River, after

dark, finding himself cut off and surrounded, he placed himself at the head of his command and carried his column through the Confederate lines with success.

During the advance of General Hood's aggressive army, including the battle of Franklin and the advance of the Union Army at Nashville, his officers and the men of his command speak in eulogistic terms of Major Connelly's leadership and his sterling qualities as a soldier. From second lieutenant he was promoted captain over his first lieutenant and by a vote of the officers of his regiment, who also voiced the sentiment of the rank and file, he was elected major over six captains who held commissions older than his.

The *Inter-Ocean's* article is brief, and does not give in detail the events leading to Captain Connelly's promotion, which are now related: Colonel F. M. Davidson, of the Fourteenth, wrote two letters to Governor Oglesby recommending him for the position of major. These letters were written at Edgefield, Tennessee, the first bearing date of February 7, 1865, in which Colonel Davidson says: "In recommending Captain Connelly for this position (major) it affords me much pleasure to bear witness to the gallant and successful manner in which he has conducted himself as a soldier whenever and wherever he has been called upon to face the enemy. His bearing on the Morgan raid until the day he (Morgan) was captured; his skill throughout the entire campaign in East Tennessee under General Burnside, and particularly on the 14th day of December, 1863, at the battle of Bean Station, fighting General Longstreet's corps, in which he handled his battery with the coolest daring and most splendid success; his energy on the (Cherokee) North Carolina expedition in the month of February, 1864, commanded by myself; his bravery and dash during the recent campaign in Tennessee under General Thomas, and particularly on the night of the 23d of November, 1864, when, being surrounded by General Forrest, and after other

officers failed in charging the enemy's lines, he placed himself at the head of the column, rallied the men, and charged out without the loss of a man; and also on the 15th of December (at Nashville) when he rallied his regiment, after being broken under a fearful cannonade from the enemy's batteries. In short his whole career as a soldier proves him to be worthy of prompt promotion."

Governor Oglesby hesitated to commission a junior captain over so many seniors; and Colonel Davidson, being advised of this hesitation, on March 28, 1865, wrote to him again as follows: "I can only repeat what I said of Captain Connelly in my communication to Governor Oglesby dated February 7, 1865. Aside from his being an officer of the first order (particular mention of some of his acts of bravery being there set forth), his high tone as a gentleman, and his acknowledged talent as a man, loudly call for official recognition of his services to his country. He has capacity for any position as field officer. Anything you may be able to do for him will be esteemed as a personal favor."

June 22, 1865, Governor Oglesby issued to Captain Connelly his commission as major.

In the *Rock Island Argus* of July 10, 1865, we find the following: "Major H. C. Connelly of the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, arrived home on Saturday evening, and is a citizen again. No officer from our county has acquitted himself with more credit or returned with a better reputation, both among the soldiers and people."

Upon his return from the war, Major Connelly resumed his law practice. In 1866 he was elected police magistrate for a term of four years. He was elected city attorney for Rock Island to serve during the years 1869, 1870 and 1871. In January, 1894, his son, Bernard D., became associated with him under the firm title of Connelly & Connelly. Their practice covers the various branches of law and the firm ranks as one of the leading law firms of Rock Island County.

Aside from the practice of law, Major Connelly has been identified with several local enterprises. Upon the death of Bailey Davenport he succeeded to the presidency of the Rock Island and Milan Street Railway Company. He was one of the original stock holders in the Rock Island Buggy Company, as well as in the Rock Island Savings Bank and State Bank. He was one of the original incorporators and assisted in the passage of the bill through both branches of Congress, authorizing the construction of the electric railroad now crossing the Mississippi River between Rock Island and Davenport, Iowa. He has always been active and taken great interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement and the prosperity of Rock Island, and in 1861 labored many weeks with senators and members of the House at Washington to secure the passage of the bill by Congress, locating the great National Arsenal at Rock Island. He is the last survivor of the committee of ten from Davenport, Rock Island and Moline, who went to Washington in the fall of 1861 to aid in the passage by Congress of the Arsenal Bill.

He is one of the few living citizens who saw Black Hawk, the Indian chief, in his lifetime.

In his former years Major Connelly was a strong believer in and supporter of the doctrines of the Democratic party. During the Buchanan campaign of 1856 and the Douglas-Lincoln campaign of 1858 he was an active worker. The late Judge Jerry S. Black, who was a personal friend of Major Connelly, and at that time a member of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, tendered him the position of postmaster of Rock Island. This appointment he respectfully declined. He was a firm friend of Senator Douglas, and considered it inconsistent for him to accept office from President Buchanan, while he was using the power of his administration in the state (though unsuccessfully), to defeat Senator Douglas. President Johnson appointed him

postmaster of Rock Island, but a Republican Senate failed to confirm the nomination.

In 1882, the late P. L. Cable, at the Democratic Congressional Convention at Monmouth, placed in nomination Major Connelly for Congress. The Democratic State Convention, which convened at Peoria in 1884, elected him temporary chairman. On the money question he voted for President McKinley, and has since supported the principles of the Republican Party.

He was a tireless worker for, and visited Washington to aid in the passage of the Hennepin Canal Bill. For many years he served as member and president of the school board, as well as a member, president and secretary of the library board. On his seventieth birthday the bar of Rock Island County presented Major Connelly with a gold mounted cane.

On May 12, 1857, Major Connelly married Miss Adalaide McCall, daughter of Clark and Hannah (Hanford) McCall. She is a native of New York. Her earlier ancestors did duty in the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars. Of their children Clark H. and Alvin H. are manufacturers of and dealers in hardwood lumber at Kansas City, Missouri; Mabel is the wife of Dr. C. W. McGavren, of Missouri Valley, Iowa; Bernard D. is in partnership with his father, and Miss Lucia is deceased.

Bernard D. Connelly is a Rock Islander by birth, being born October 19, 1866. He is a graduate of the High School of Rock Island, and the State University of Iowa, where he acquitted himself with honor. He was admitted to the bar in 1891, at the time being associated with the law firm of Douthitt, Jones & Mason, of Topeka, Kansas. Since January, 1894, he has been associated with his father in the practice of law under the firm name of Connelly & Connelly. On December 22, 1903, he married Miss Elizabeth Chamberlin. Mr. Connelly is a member of the Phi Delta Theta college fraternity and is a Son of the American Revolution. He is the present Master In Chancery of Rock Island County.

## COLONEL HENRY CURTIS.

ONE of the prominent citizens of Rock Island, and a man of high standing in the legal profession, was Colonel Henry Curtis, deceased.

He was born at Boston, Massachusetts, August 13, 1834, the home of his parents. Henry and Rebecca L. (Everett) Curtis, and in that city he spent his boyhood and received his preliminary education. This was finished by a course in the English High School of his native city, which fitted him for entrance into the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York, where he pursued an engineering course, and graduated in 1855 as a civil engineer.

In 1856 Mr. Curtis came to Rock Island, where, one year later, December 15, 1857, he married Lucy R. Osborn, the daughter of Marcus B. Osborn.

He continued his practice as a civil engineer in Rock Island until October 8, 1860, when, having fitted himself for the legal profession, he was admitted to the Rock Island County Bar. Upon taking up the practice of his new profession, Mr. Curtis entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Charles M. Osborn, under the firm name of Osborn & Curtis, and this partnership continued until 1880, when it was dissolved, Mr. Osborn removing to Chicago and Mr. Curtis continuing in the practice alone until his death. During the continuance of the firm they were attorneys for the Rock Island Road. In 1887 Mr. Curtis was appointed master in chancery for Rock Island County by Judge George W. Pleasants, which office he held continuously for nearly twenty-five years. A staunch Republican, Mr. Curtis never aspired to an active career in political life, and the office of master in chancery was the only one he ever held during his long and honored career in Rock Island.

Soon after Mr. Curtis came to Rock Island

the Civil War broke out, and he, together with Major Charles W. Hawes and others, organized a company of volunteers, consisting of one hundred and sixteen men. During the first year of the war this company was mustered into the Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Mr. Curtis bearing the rank of lieutenant, M. S. Barnes of Rock Island being captain of the company, which was known as Company A. This company was mustered into service at Camp Webb, in Chicago; Julius White of that city being the first colonel of the regiment to which they were assigned. M. S. Barnes, the captain of Company A, was made lieutenant-colonel, and this created a vacant captaincy to which John A. Jordan was elected. He served for three months and was then succeeded by Lieutenant Curtis, who continued as captain of the company until March 7, 1862, when he was severely wounded at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He was granted leave of absence, and upon his recovery again rejoined his company and shortly afterward was chosen assistant adjutant-general by the former colonel of his regiment, who had meanwhile been appointed brigadier-general.

The remainder of Colonel Curtis' military service was in the Eastern Army. One notable incident in this service was the siege and surrender of Harper's Ferry, in which he took a very prominent part. His war record throughout was distinguished by bravery and loyalty. At the end of the war he was brevetted a lieutenant-colonel.

At the close of the war Colonel Curtis returned to Rock Island and again resumed the practice of law together with his partner, Mr. Osborn. As has been stated, his career as a lawyer was a long and honorable one. He achieved and maintained an exalted position in the forefront of his profession, and was held in confidence and high esteem by all who knew him. After the firm of Osborn & Curtis was dissolved, Mr. Curtis formed a

partnership with his son, Hugh E. Curtis, for the purpose of drawing abstracts of title, and this firm, under the active management of Hugh E. Curtis, continued until the death of Colonel Curtis, when the son assumed full charge of the business.

On November 17, 1902, Colonel Curtis was bereaved by the death of his wife. Of this marriage four children were born: Henry R. Curtis, St. Paul, Minnesota; Osborn M. Curtis, New York City; Hope G. C. Jones, wife of Commodore H. W. Jones, United States Navy, residing at Washington, District of Columbia; and Hugh E. Curtis, of Rock Island.

On September 12, 1905, death brought to a close the long and useful life of Colonel Henry Curtis, his demise occurring at Marblehead, Massachusetts. He had been in failing health for some years and had retired from active professional and business life. His death was a distinct loss to the community in which he had spent the best years of his manhood, and in the tributes paid to his memory by his fellow members of the bar and others who were intimately associated with him the sentiment was general and profound that Colonel Henry Curtis was a character above reproach, an honorable, sincere and upright gentleman.

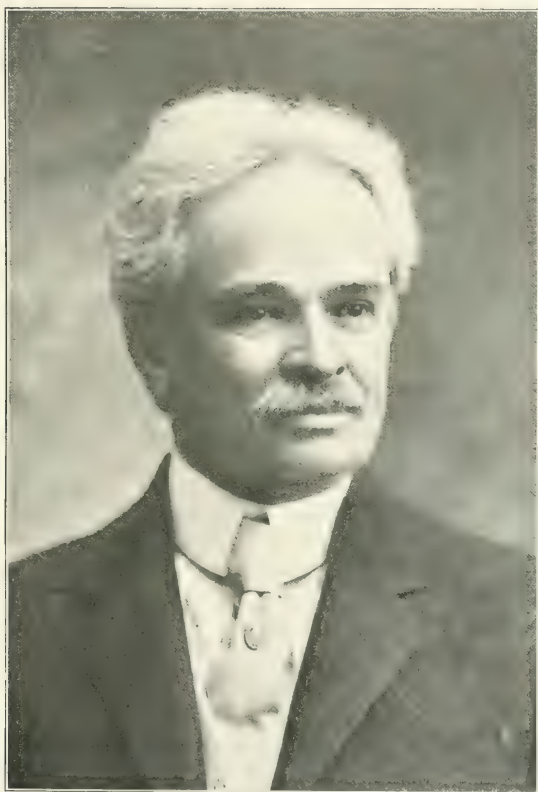


#### ELMORE W. HURST.

AN ABLE lawyer, a successful financier, and a man recognized as a state leader in Illinois Democracy, is Elmore W. Hurst, of Rock Island, one of the senior members of the legal firm of Jackson, Hurst & Stafford.

Mr. Hurst was born December 6, 1851, in Rock Island, which city has ever since been his home. His parents were William and Anna (Hurlock) Hurst, both natives of the State of Delaware. The father, who was of English descent, came to Rock Island in 1837, and here he was engaged in mercantile pur-





ELMORE W. HURST.



suits. Coming to Rock Island when what is now a city, was but a mere handful of people gathered together in a little village, he saw the town gradually increase in size and importance as new business enterprises were added from time to time, and in that growth and progress he, himself, was prominently identified. Both the elder Mr. and Mrs. Hurst were among the early members of the First Methodist Church of Rock Island, and were unswerving and untiring in their loyalty and devotion to the church of their choice. To this couple were born five children, three of whom are still living: Miss Mary Hurst, Mrs. Julia Stafford, and Elmore W. Hurst, the subject of this review.

After completing a course of study in the public schools of Rock Island, Elmore W. Hurst decided upon a business career, beginning as bookkeeper, and later being promoted to the position of assistant cashier in the Rock Island National Bank. His connection with that institution continued for eight years. Mr. Hurst had for some considerable time cherished an ambition to become a lawyer, and at the end of his eight years of service in the banking house in which he was employed, he had formed a definite determination to fit himself for membership in the legal profession. With that end in view he took up the study of law in the office of the Hon. W. H. Gest, who was then a practicing attorney in Rock Island, and in 1883 Mr. Hurst was admitted to the bar. Immediately upon his admission as an attorney he began the practice of his profession. A man of great natural ability and of close application his rise in the profession has been a steady one, and today both he, himself, and the firm of which he is a member, are recognized as leaders at the Rock Island County Bar. In 1891 Mr. Hurst formed a partnership with the Hon. William Jackson, the style of the firm being Jackson & Hurst. This partnership continued until 1902 when the firm was enlarged by the admission into

it of Mr. Hurst's two nephews, John T. and Elmore H. Stafford. This firm's offices in the Masonic Temple are the most commodious and well arranged in the city, the volume of their business requiring the employment of several assistants.

On May 29, 1873, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hurst and Miss Harriet M. Field. For years Mr. and Mrs. Hurst made their home on the corner of Nineteenth Street and Sixth Avenue in Rock Island, but in 1906 Mr. Hurst purchased the old Buford residence at the head of Eighteenth Street, a large and handsome edifice built in the old Southern style of architecture. This he has thoroughly remodeled and modernized, and there he now resides.

He is a large owner of farm lands in the north and west and has extensive holdings in business realty in Rock Island, also being interested as a stock holder in several banks, both in Rock Island and in western cities. Mr. Hurst is a man of business sagacity and financial acumen, and the modest fortune which he has accumulated is an honest one, the result of prudent and careful investment in real estate that has increased greatly in value and which now yields handsome returns.

As has been stated, Mr. Hurst is a prominent Democrat. He was elected on that ticket to the Illinois Legislature in 1888 and 1900. His name has been several times mentioned as a possible candidate for Governor of Illinois upon the Democratic ticket, and it is certain that he could have received the honor of a nomination to that office at the hands of his party had he so desired.

He is a member of the First Methodist Church, the church of his parents, where, for several years, he filled the office of one of the trustees. Fraternally, he is identified with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

During the years 1905 and 1906 Mr. Hurst

was elected president of the Rock Island County Bar Association, his successor in that office being Hon. Chas. J. Searle, the present incumbent.

A man of strong personality, Mr. Hurst commands the admiration and respect, not only of his fellow members of the bar, but of the body of Rock Island's citizenship. He is honorable, upright and conscientious in his dealings, and always absolutely fair and sincere. He is a man who believes in the future of his native city and he has proved that his belief is a sincere one by investing many thousands of dollars in Rock Island real-estate, and by improving property that he owns. Such men are invaluable to any city in which they exert their ability and expend large sums of money in its improvement.



#### REV. CHRISTOPHER A. MENNICKE.

ONE of Rock Island's most revered and honored ministers of the gospel, a man who has grown old in the service of his God and his church, is Rev. C. A. Mennicke, pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuels Congregation.

He was born September 17, 1834, at Friedrichschwerz, a small place near Halle, in Prussia, his parents being Andreas and Carolina (Winter) Mennicke. He received his early education in the institutions of Halle, Germany. An uncle, Professor F. Winter whose home was in America, wrote to the young student and urged him to come to this country. He left Germany in 1854 and came to America, locating at St. Louis. The main purpose of his coming was to prepare for the ministry of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a hope and aspiration that he had cherished from early boyhood. Soon after reaching St. Louis our subject entered Concordia Seminary in that city, and here he pursued a four years' classical course, upon the completion of which he

entered upon and finished a theological course of three years at the same institution, graduating in May, 1861. Shortly after his graduation he received and accepted a call as pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuels Church at Rock Island, a pastorate that he has held ever since. The first parsonage in which Rev. Mennicke dwelt was located on what is now Thirteenth Street and Sixth Avenue, but which was then known as Beaver and Pleasant Streets. Here he made his home until 1869, since which time he has resided at the present parsonage located at 1923 Fifth Avenue.

On October 20, 1861, shortly after taking up his pastorate in Rock Island, Rev. Mennicke was joined in marriage to Miss Anna D. Mangelsdorf, a young lady of St. Louis. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. F. Doescher, of Iowa City, Iowa, the marriage taking place at Rock Island. Fourteen children were born of this union, four of whom died in their early youth. Those living are: Mrs. Anna Hohenstein, wife of Rev. O. L. Hohenstein, of Bloomington, Illinois; Mrs. Amalie Streckfus, widow of Rev. J. A. Streckfus, residing at home; Rev. August C. Mennicke, of Edford Township, Henry County, Illinois; Mrs. Maria Kroeger, wife of Rev. F. Kroeger, of Hinckley, Illinois; Rev. Ernest D. Mennicke, assistant pastor of German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuels Church, of Rock Island; Mrs. Caroline Schmidt, wife of Rev. H. Schmidt, of Galesburg, Illinois; Rev. Charles G. Mennicke, of Four Corners, Iowa, and the Misses Clara, Justine and Frieda Mennicke, at home.

From 1861 to 1862 Rev. Mennicke in addition to his pastoral duties acted as teacher of the parochial school established in connection with his church. At times he was assisted in this work by his wife, and the duty of developing the minds of the children of the church and of establishing their feet in the paths of religion was faithfully performed by this devoted couple.

In 1886 was celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Mennicke's pastorate at Rock Island. On the same day his son, August C. Mennicke, was ordained as a minister of the Lutheran denomination, and was installed as assistant pastor of the church at Rock Island, thus being enabled to relieve his father of some of the more arduous duties in connection with the extensive work of the church.

Rev. Mennicke is a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. For years he has been an officer of the Illinois District of the Synod for Central Illinois, and chairman of the Central Illinois Conference.

For almost fifty years this good man has labored assiduously in Rock Island for the uplifting of mankind and the salvation of souls. He has grown old in the service of Christ and the church, but who can measure the good that he has accomplished in the labors of a lifetime. Such lives as his have a benign influence upon mankind. And in his latter years as he looks backward upon his life's work, although his labor has not brought to him a liberal financial reward, still he has love, reverence and regard of all who have ever come within the circle of his acquaintance.



### HENRY J. FRICK.

THE life record of Henry J. Frick, the subject of our present sketch, is that of a self-made man; a man who through his unflagging industry and undaunted perseverance has achieved for himself not only a comfortable competence, but an enviable reputation for unswerving integrity and uncompromising honor.

He was born August 31, 1858, at Rock Island, and this city has been his home ever since, with the exception of one and one-half years spent in Scott County, Iowa. His par-

ents were William and Caroline (Dietrich) Frick. Both were natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in 1851. The first four years after coming to their new home they spent in Utica, State of New York. They moved to Rock Island in 1855 where his father took out his papers in 1856. Here the father was connected with the Rock Island Railway, being in charge of the local baggage and freight department. The death of the mother occurred in 1878, and that of the father in 1882.

His son received a common school education in the Rock Island public schools. At the age of fifteen years he decided to follow the plumbing trade and with that end in view he entered the employ of Fred Hass as an apprentice for a year and one-half, after which he abandoned his intention of becoming a plumber, and entered the employ of the Rock Island Railway as a locomotive fireman at the age of seventeen years. This occupation he followed for eight years, residing part of the time in Buffalo, Scott County, Iowa, where he served one year as a township officer. He then decided to embark in the livery business and together with Gottlieb Zwicker formed the firm known as Zwicker & Frick at Rock Island. Their partnership continued for seven months, when Mr. Zwicker disposed of his interest in the business to Chas. Hansgen. Upon this business change the firm was known as Frick & Hansgen. Mr. Frick and Mr. Hansgen continued the partnership for about three years. Then Frank Kautz purchased Mr. Hansgen's share in the enterprise, and the firm name was changed to Frick & Kautz. The business association of Mr. Frick and Mr. Kautz continued for more than ten years. Then Mr. Frick purchased his partner's interest, and has since continued the business alone. Largely through Mr. Frick's individual efforts the business has constantly grown in size and importance, and today Mr. Frick possesses one of the largest and most



completely equipped livery establishments in the Tri-Cities.

On February 21, 1884, Mr. Frick was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Kautz, a daughter of Fritz and Barbara Kautz, of Buffalo, Iowa. Two children, both daughters, were born of this union, Adelia E. and Bertha C. Mr. Frick was deprived of a devoted wife and his daughters of a loving mother by the death of Mrs. Frick, which occurred December 26, 1888. May 16, 1891, occurred the marriage of Mr. Frick and Miss Mary E. Kautz, daughter of Christian and Christina Kautz, also of Buffalo, Iowa, she being a cousin of Mr. Frick's first wife. To them three daughters have been born, Marie J., Edith M. and Henrietta N.

In political affiliation Mr. Frick is a Democrat. In the April election, 1907, he was chosen as alderman of the Fourth Ward upon the ticket of the Citizens' Non-Partisan Association. The contest in election was not won without a struggle, as both the Republican and Democratic parties had placed strong men in nomination. Mr. Frick's popularity with men in both of the old parties was so clearly demonstrated by the election, that upon the sending in of the returns it was shown that he had been elected by a handsome majority over both opponents. The Fourth Ward, which Mr. Frick now represents as alderman, is the ward in which he was born, and in which his business has been located for many years.

In religious conviction Mr. Frick is a consistent member of the German Catholic Church of Rock Island. Fraternally he is connected with the Elks, the Western Catholic Union and the Knights of Columbus.

From what has already been said of the life of Mr. Frick, and from the personal knowledge which almost every one residing in Rock Island or vicinity has of the man, it is a fact beyond dispute that he is one of Rock Island's best citizens who is constantly working for the advancement of his native city.

## IGNATZ HUBER.

THE City of Rock Island is indebted for its present prosperity and commercial activity to many men whose capital and intellect have been instrumental in promoting its growth; but one of the men to whom it is chiefly indebted for his activity in promoting those industries and measures which are the life of a city is Ignatz Huber, one of Rock Island's pioneer brewers and financiers.

Mr. Huber is a native of Bavaria, Germany. He was born February 1, 1826. His boyhood and youth were spent in his native Bavaria, and after his school days were finished, learned the brewer's trade under the instruction of his father. Like many others of foreign birth who have emigrated to the United States, Mr. Huber saw in America a land of promise where individual ability counted for much more and brought much better returns than in the old world. He took passage for America on a sailing vessel leaving the Port of Rotterdam, and after a voyage of forty-two days on the ocean, arrived at New York on June 16, 1849. Pushing westward he stopped at Canton, Ohio, where he spent two months, and then removed to Columbus in the same state, where he found employment in a brewery. Leaving Columbus he went to Cincinnati, where he again followed that line of business in which he had received such thorough training. Mr. Huber remained in Cincinnati until 1851, when he came to Rock Island, which has ever since been his home.

In Rock Island he again obtained employment in a brewery, and after his first month's employment he purchased an interest in the concern, of which three years later he became the sole owner. From a small beginning Mr. Huber's business grew and his patronage increased until it became one of the city's principal industries, employing many men. He continued in business alone until the for-



*Ignaz Heller*



mation of the Rock Island Brewing Company, whereby Rock Island's three brewing plants were consolidated and a stock company organized. Then Mr. Huber turned over active management of the new enterprise to his son, Otto, pursuing the same course as his former competitor, George Wagner, who had turned over the management of his part in the business to his son, Robert, the elders practically retiring and placing the responsibility of active management of this large concern upon the shoulders of the junior members of their respective households.

Mr. Huber was married in October, 1854, to Miss Catherine Koehler, a young lady of German birth and rearing, but who had come to America in her youth. To this couple have been born six children, three of whom have attained manhood and womanhood and are living at home with their parents, and three of whom died in early childhood. Those living are the Misses Amelia and Lillie Huber and Otto Huber.

In religious faith Mr. Huber is a Catholic, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran denomination. In politics he is a Democrat, and although never an office-seeker, he was once elected alderman of his home ward, and proved so thoroughly acceptable to his constituents that he was twice re-elected to that office. From 1858 to 1861 he was captain of the Rock Island Rifle Company, a military organization formed here at that time.

Mr. Huber has valuable real estate holdings in Rock Island, Moline and Geneseo, Illinois, and in Davenport, Iowa. He is also a stock holder in the Peoples' National Bank, and for many years was its vice president. In the spring of 1906 Mr. Huber purchased twenty-five acres of valuable land lying between Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Streets, and beginning on Ninth Avenue extending to the bluff in Rock Island. From the summit of this land a magnificent view of the entire City of Rock Island may be obtained. One-half of this land is to be plotted into lots which will

be sold and the other half Mr. Huber will retain for a home, where he will shortly erect a residence. In fact Mr. Huber has been a pioneer in the laying out and platting of additions; the Huber and Peetz addition, in which he was interested, being the real beginning of Rock Island's real estate boom.

For all the years that Ignatz Huber has lived in Rock Island his life has been an open one, his every deed being actuated by honest motives. He has conscientiously endeavored to fulfill the duties that devolved upon him both in public and in private life, and how well he has succeeded is thoroughly demonstrated by the universal esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

### OTTO HUBER.

**A**MONG the younger generation of Rock Island's prominent business men whose names are deserving of special mention for what they have achieved in their chosen vocations in life, stands that of Otto Huber, who is the present secretary and treasurer of the Rock Island Brewing Company, a Rock Island industry whose formation, growth and present scope, has been related elsewhere in this book.

Mr. Huber was born in Rock Island January 19, 1866, and attended schools in that city until he was ready to enter the Illinois State University at Champaign, where he spent three years. Afterward he studied two years abroad and graduated from the Institute of Technology at Weihenstephan, near Munich, Bavaria, which country had been the birth place of his father, Ignatz Huber. After completing his education he entered his father's business in 1889, but he was also a promoter of brewing enterprises in other cities, notable among which is the organization of the Seattle Brewing & Malting Company in 1893. This was a consolidation of four of Seattle's brewing plants and was brought about



by Otto Huber. The company today is the largest and most prominent brewing concern in the United States west of Milwaukee and St. Louis. He organized the Des Moines Brewing Company in 1907, of which he is the president.

In 1893 when the Rock Island Brewing Company was formed, Mr. Huber was one of the chief promoters of that organization, and it was largely through his activity that the organization was brought into being. Upon its formation he was elected secretary and treasurer of the new company, positions which has held ever since.

In 1902 Mr. Huber was one of the organizers of the Illinois State Brewers' Association and was its first secretary.

In 1903 Mr. Huber became vice president of the People's National Bank of Rock Island, succeeding his father in that office. In 1904 he was appointed a member of the board of park commissioners in the City of Rock Island and it was this board that inaugurated the improvement of Long View Park, one of the most beautiful in the state. He is at present treasurer of the board.

Mr. Huber is not allied with an political organization, but gives his support to those men and measures that in his opinion represent the best principles.

He is a member of several social and fraternal organizations, among them being the Rock Island Club, the Davenport Commercial Club, Chicago Athletic Association, is a life member of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, and is a member of the Elks.

He is a man who is fond of all varieties of clean athletic sports, being an enthusiastic equestrian and golf player.

Mr. Huber is unmarried. He takes an active and prominent part in the social life of the three cities and Chicago, his genial qualities and liberality making him a general favorite. Although a young man possessed of wealth and one who has received many advantages he is unspoiled by prosperity and

is of a very unassuming nature without the slightest trace of arrogance. Warm hearted and sympathetic he is ever ready to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself and to devote his time and money to the upbuilding of his native city.



### HON. WILLIAM McENIRY.

IN CONSIDERING the prominent legal firms in Rock Island County one's mind instinctively turns to the firm of McEniry & McEniry, a firm composed of the two brothers, Hon. William McEniry and Matthew J. McEniry, having offices both in Rock Island and Moline. It is the life and character of the former of these two gentlemen that we propose to depict in the sketch that is to follow. The life and character of Matthew J. McEniry will be found elsewhere in this work treated at length.

William McEniry was born in Rock Island County, Illinois, May 9, 1860, his parents being William and Elizabeth (Coughlin) McEniry. William McEniry, Sr., who was a farmer, came to Illinois in 1841 and settled in Moline, making his home there until 1852, when he took up his residence on a farm in this county. In 1846 occurred his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Coughlin. To this couple eight children were born, six sons and two daughters. Two of the sons, however, died in infancy. The death of the father occurred February 18, 1874. His widow survived him until May 30, 1907, when she passed away. Both were devout members of the Roman Catholic Church. In a panegyric at the time of Mrs. McEniry's death one of the Moline daily newspapers spoke of her life as follows: "Mrs. McEniry was identified with the history of Rock Island County. She was the first Catholic woman to reside in what is now the City of Moline, and the first mass of the church ever said in that city, was celebrated in her house by a Davenport priest. She was a remarkable character in many ways.



Her life was as calm and gentle as its close and yet it was active. She was of firm faith and resolute purpose and courage."

William McEniry, the son, whose life we will now discuss, received his preliminary education in the public schools of Rock Island County. Later he pursued a commercial course in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Upon the completion of this he entered upon a literary course in the University of Notre Dame, at Notre Dame, Indiana. Then he chose the profession of law as his life's vocation, and in order to fit himself for the practice of that science he entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in that state. Here he graduated in 1885.

Soon after his graduation the young barrister opened a law office in Rock Island, and his immediate success proved him to be an able lawyer. He possesses a keen and analytical mind, and a broad and comprehensive mental vision, enabling him to assimilate the correlation of ideas and to instinctively grasp the fundamental and basic elements of the subject under consideration. Added to this he is a logical reasoner and an eloquent and forceful public speaker. These attributes and accomplishments are essential in a successful legal career, and by the possession of these superior qualities, which in themselves are marks of distinction, Mr. McEniry has attained an enviable station in his profession. He has served as counsel in some very important litigation that has attracted widespread interest. In legal ability he is one of the foremost lawyers in Western Illinois, and his superior merit has obtained the recognition that it deserves.

Ever since entering upon the practice of law in Rock Island and taking up his residence here, Mr. McEniry has been constant and untiring in his endeavor to promote that city's best interests and has given his support to all measures for the public benefit. He was actively instrumental in the work of securing a new court house and was also a

potent factor in determining the location of the Western Illinois Hospital for the Insane at Watertown, and was asked by Governor Altgeld to act as a member of the board, but declined. He secured the passage of the bill making possible to remove the Woodmen office to Rock Island.

On October 15, 1890, Mr. McEniry was united in marriage to Miss Alice Cleary, a young lady of New Orleans, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cleary of that city. To them four children have been born, John, Elizabeth, William and Katherine. Both Mr. and Mrs. McEniry are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Their many excellent qualities and bountiful hospitality have made them favorites in the best social circles of the Tri-Cities.

In political faith Mr. McEniry has always been a staunch Democrat, and he is one of the acknowledged leaders of that party in Rock Island County. Although zealous in striving for the success of his party at the poles, Mr. McEniry has never been a bitter or a narrow partizan, and as a leader in his party his conduct of campaigns, although vigorous, has been such as to insure him the respect and friendly regard of his political opponents.

In 1887 Mr. McEniry was nominated by his party, and was elected city attorney of Rock Island. He filled that office with ability and distinction. In the autumn of 1896 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives in the Illinois State Legislature, running far ahead of his party ticket. In this capacity he served upon several very important committees, and although his political party was the minority party nevertheless every one of the five bills introduced by Mr. McEniry passed both the House and the Senate, and became laws of the state. Of his ability as a legislator the *Inter-Ocean*, of Chicago, spoke in the highest terms of praise.

No words of fulsome praise are necessary to embellish the life and character of William

McEniry. He is a patriotic citizen, a scholarly and able lawyer and a Christian gentleman. No higher encomium can be bestowed upon any man.

### MATTHEW J. McENIRY.

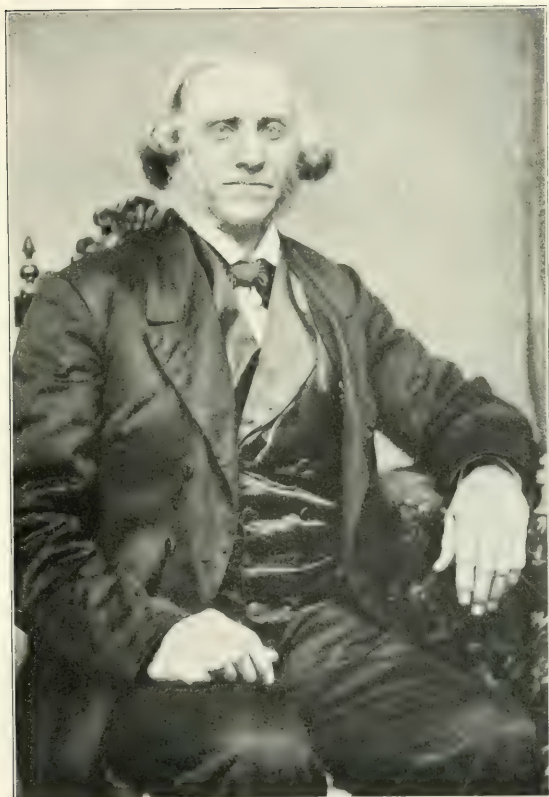
IT IS said that the legal profession is one of the most difficult in which to achieve success. It is doubtless true that to be a truly successful attorney requires ability of a high order. We have spoken elsewhere in this work of the success achieved by the legal firm of McEniry & McEniry, and one of the fruits of that success is a renown that is not merely local but that has spread throughout the northwest. In the article mentioned the life and character of one of the members of the firm, William McEniry, was taken up and discussed at length. His strength and ability were depicted. The present article is to be devoted to a discussion of the salient points in the life of the other member of the firm, Matthew J. McEniry, a man, who like his brother, is possessed of brilliant talents and real genius.

He was born on a farm in Zuma Township, this county. The lives and characters of the elder McEnirys, the parents of Matthew J. and William, are recorded at length in the sketch previously spoken of, to which the reader is referred. As a lad Matthew J. McEniry received his early education in the country schools in the neighborhood of his father's farm. When seventeen years of age he went to an academy at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he completed a commercial course. He afterward entered the University of Notre Dame, at Notre Dame, Indiana, where he devoted himself to scientific studies. These he completed in 1887, whereupon he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, from which he graduated one year later. After his graduation the young attorney was admitted to

the bar and opened a law office in Moline in partnership with his brother, William, of Rock Island. The firm has ever since retained offices in both Rock Island and Moline; William McEniry having charge of the Rock Island office while Matthew J. conducted the business at Moline. The excellent success and enviable reputation which the firm has achieved are too well known to need repetition here. Sufficient is it to say that they are one of the foremost legal firms in Rock Island County. They possess commodious and well appointed offices and fine law libraries in both cities, the Moline office being located in the Skinner Block.

In politics Matthew J. McEniry has always been one of Moline's leading Democrats, and has been ever zealous in promoting the success of the political party of his choice. That party has recognized his services and has honored him with offices of responsibility and trust. In 1884, when only twenty-three years of age, Mr. McEniry was elected supervisor of Zuma Township, and held that office for one term. He was also appointed deputy sheriff of Rock Island County, which office he filled for four years. In July, 1894, he received from President Cleveland the appointment as postmaster of Moline, and continued in that office until October 1, 1897. His political zeal and active work for party success has been many times shown while a delegate to his party's conventions, he having been a delegate to nearly every Democratic State Convention since 1882. He is a firm believer in the great principles of Thomas Jefferson, and is firmly convinced that the best interests of this country would be best subserved by a strict adherence to its tenets.

Mr. McEniry was of assistance in obtaining the passage of the law providing for the organization and establishment of the naval militia in Illinois. He was elected and served as an ensign in the Moline Company of the same until 1897, when from political reasons, as he



JOHN A. BOYER





MRS. JOHN A. BOYER





himself states, he was politely requested to resign or the division would be mustered out of the service then and there. There were at that time two divisions of naval reserves, and in fact there were formerly four divisions located at Moline, a city that was very active in aid of this branch of the state service, and who took pride in educating her citizens in the ways of naval warfare upon the great "Father of Waters." Mr. McEniry was also a director of the Moline Public Library at the time the new Carnegie building was erected, and served as secretary of the board for two years.

Matthew J. McEniry is a devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church, the church in which he was born and reared. He was confirmed at an early age by Archbishop Foley, of Chicago.

Fraternally Mr. McEniry is strongly connected, and his genial, helpful nature makes him a most acceptable member of many orders. He has passed through the presiding chair of the Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 38, of Moline. He is also a member of the North Star Benefit Association, of which he is county astronomer, of Observatory No. 1. He is a charter member of the lodge of Fraternal Tribunes organized at Moline. He is also a member of Tecumseh Tribe, No. 24, Improved Order of Redmen, and has represented all these lodges at their great councils. He is now chairman of the judiciary committee of the Great Council of Illinois, Independent Order Redmen. He has been a member of the Moline Club since it was organized, and served two terms as a director of that institution. He is now serving a second term as president of the Moline Business Men's Association, and has at all times taken an active part in the business affairs of his home city.

Mr. McEniry, together with his brother, William, did loyal work in helping to secure the location of the Western Hospital for the Insane at Watertown, and through their untiring efforts in that behalf much was ac-

complished. Matthew J. McEniry has also done most effective work in helping obtain the new lock upon the Mississippi River at Moline, and in this also he has been untiring. The lock and harbor appropriation will make Moline a port upon the Mississippi River. These efforts, which are all unselfish and look only to the betterment and increased prosperity of his home city, are indicative of Mr. McEniry's character. He is an enthusiast for the six-foot channel along the Upper Mississippi, and is bending every effort to make it a reality.

For twelve years Mr. McEniry has been a member of the Rock Island County Old Settlers' Association.

Matthew J. McEniry is a man of deep and broad public spirit, a leader and organizer of men, and a citizen whose constant aim is to see his city press forward in prosperity and success. He is a man who has done much for the community in which he lives, and this is attested by the warm regard and high esteem in which he is held by all who know him. As a citizen, loyal to the enduring principles struck from the highest ideals, Mr. McEniry is superior.



### DEACON JOHN A. BOYER.

A MAN remembered only by the older generation of Rock Island County's citizens was Deacon John A. Boyer, deceased.

He was born at Bedford, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1809. During a portion of his boyhood his parents lived at Paris, Kentucky, and later removed to Indiana.

In 1837 he came to this county and settled in what was then the town of Stephenson. In 1838 Mr. Boyer was united in marriage to Mrs. Zeruiah Phillips, whose maiden name was Zeruiah Robbins. The following year Mr. and Mrs. Boyer moved to the farm at the south end of what is now Thirtieth Street, which was their home at the time of Mrs.

Boyer's death, which occurred March 16, 1886, closing a long and happy married life of forty-eight years. No children blessed this marriage, but after some years of married life they took Thomas Campbell into the family and reared him to manhood. He and his family were beneficiaries from the estates. Mr. Campbell lived forty years of Mr. Boyer's life with him and was as son to the family in every sense of the word.

In religious faith Mr. Boyer and his devoted wife were Baptists, and their fidelity to the cause of their church and zeal in the cause of religion are demonstrated by the following minutes taken from the records of the Baptist Church of this city, under date of March 20, 1843: "Church called a session which lasted several days. Brethren from this church and our sister church in Davenport sat as a church and received the following persons—" (Then follows the names of three received by letter and nine for baptism. Among the latter are the names of John A. and Zeruiah Boyer.) They were buried in baptism in the Mississippi River, at the foot of what is now Twentieth Street, Rock Island. Brother Boyer and his wife at once took an active part in the work of the church. January 21, 1845, forty-seven years ago, he was elected deacon, and, according to the custom of that time, was ordained to that office by the imposition of hands upon the sixteenth of the following February, the ordaining prayer being made by Elder Stone. About two years previous to that time he had been elected as a trustee, and he held both of these offices in the church continuously until his death. For more than thirty years he was among the most active workers in the church, none excelling him in cheerfully taking up and bearing the burdens of the work. He was on nearly all the church committees, frequently being the chairman of those on which he was placed. At times he acted as church sexton, making the fires, caring for the church building and its contents without mon-

ey and without price, but simply because of his love for his church home, and found no task too hard or work too irksome when the church's welfare was furthered thereby. When debts burdened the church, and seemed likely to crush it beneath their weight, he either paid them in full himself, or else paid such proportion that the load was lightened and others could complete the payment.

To John A. Boyer and his faithful wife, the First Baptist Church of Rock Island is largely indebted for its present fine property, its house of worship and parsonage, the tower of the church building being entirely his gift, as was the parsonage a gift from his wife. During Mr. Boyer's latter years the infirmities of age compelled him to take a less active part in the work of the church, but his interest never flagged. His fellow church members feel that to Brother and Sister Boyer, and to their noble co-worker, Deacon David Hawes, their church, under God, owes a debt of lasting gratitude.

In politics Mr. Boyer was a Republican until the time of Horace Greeley's nomination for President of the United States, but from that time on he was a Democrat. He lived a quiet and retiring life, taking little personal part in politics and public affairs, although in these matters he always manifested a keen interest. He was deputy sheriff for two years under Sheriff Wells, and at one time was a member of the board of supervisors.

He had been for many years an honored member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Old Settlers' Association, at one time being president of the latter organization.

On December 5, 1891, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years, John A. Boyer passed away at Los Angeles, California. He survived most of the companions of his youth and middle life, but having traveled far along life's pathway the burden of his many years fell from his shoulders, and he lay down to sleep in the silent chamber of Death, but being dead he yet liveth.

## SAMUEL H. MONTGOMERY.

**A**MONG the names of Rock Island County's citizens none is better known and none held in more honor and respect than that of Montgomery. The elder Montgomerys were among the oldest settlers of this county, and early acquired large holdings in farm properties. Their children have been prominently identified with the business and farming interests of Rock Island County for more than a quarter of a century. It is of one of the sons of those pioneers, Alexander E. and Margaret Montgomery, the life history of the former appearing upon another page of this work, that this sketch is to treat.

Samuel H. Montgomery was born on a farm near Coal Valley in Rock Island County August 2, 1866, his parents, as has been stated, being Alexander E. and Margaret Montgomery. His early boyhood was spent upon his father's farm, and later lived on the Arsenal Island for twenty years until married. He attended the public schools of Moline, and later entered and graduated from the high school of that city. After completing his studies he decided to master the machinists' trade and to that end he secured a position in the machine shops at the Rock Island Arsenal. After serving his apprenticeship he continued to work at the Arsenal and later at Williams, White & Company in Moline until the summer of 1891, when with his brothers, Alexander E. Jr., James T. and Robert J. Montgomery, the firm of Montgomery Brothers was organized for the purpose of doing a general machine and repair business. In March, 1893, the above firm was merged with the Moline Elevator Company, and a few months later the Montgomery Brothers bought out the other interests in the Elevator Company and have since that time been the principal owners and managers. To Mr. Samuel H. Montgomery was assigned the direction of the manufacturing department of this manufactory, and he is at the present time presi-

dent and general superintendent of this industry which has become a large and prosperous one. He is also a stock holder in the Deere-Clark Motor Car Company, the Moline Automobile Company, Root & Van Dervoort Engineering Company, the American Harvester Company and the Columbia Voting Machine Company. He also has extensive farm interests in Alberta, Canada.

On April 19, 1898, Mr. Montgomery married, Miss Emma M. Hartz, a Rock Island young lady, the sister of B. C., W. T., A. P. and G. C. Hartz. They have one child, a daughter, Margaret Dorothy, who at the time this sketch was written is about three years of age. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery have made their home in Moline, residing at 1542 Eleventh Avenue, in that city.

Mr. Montgomery's life has been governed by Christian principles, and he has been active in religious work. He is a consistent member of the United Presbyterian Church, which he joined in Rock Island, March 17, 1883. Seven years later in November, 1890, he was elected and ordained ruling elder in the church with which he was affiliated, and he served as clerk of session until May, 1898. He also assisted in establishing a mission church in Moline, which work had been undertaken by the Rock Island congregation in 1895, Mr. Montgomery serving as its Moline representative and Sunday School superintendent. In May, 1898, together with several others of the same religious faith, he was one of the organizers of the First United Presbyterian Church of Moline. This was the full fruition of the hopes and prayers and work of those zealous Christians who had established and fostered the little mission church. Upon the establishment of an independent church organization Mr. Montgomery was elected ruling elder and clerk of session, and also superintendent of the Sunday School, which positions he has held continuously ever since. In politics he is a Republican and takes a strong interest in the success of the

party of his choice. He has not been much identified with any lodge or fraternal organizations.

Mr. Montgomery is an ideal type of the simple, sincere Christian gentleman, a man of exalted thoughts and generous acts, and having himself enjoyed material prosperity he has been ever ready to help his less fortunate fellow man whenever that help was needed and deserved.

### ELWIN ELBERT PARMENTER.

THE life of a good and just man, and the memory of his noble, kindly deeds, are in themselves his true biography. In the life of such an individual the observer of human character may find both precept and example. He may find in such a life sermons that speak more eloquently and leave a deeper impression upon the heart than any human words. The simple goodness and unconscious influence of such a man is a benediction to all with whom he comes in daily contact. Such were the attributes of the late Judge Elwin E. Parmenter, a man highly esteemed and greatly beloved by all who knew him, a man of high integrity and broad charity, a man whose motto was the Golden Rule.

He was born on a farm in Andalusia Township, Rock Island County, June 24, 1843, his parents being Lorenzo and Kezia Parmenter, one of the early families who settled in this county. He received his early education in the public schools of Muscatine, and here he fitted himself for entrance to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he graduated from the law department. A short time after his graduation he entered upon the practice of his profession at Rock Island, which city was his home until his death. In 1872 he was elected state's attorney for Rock Island County, and held this office for three continuous terms of four years each, his third term ending in 1884. His administra-

tion of that office was forceful, vigorous and successful, distinguished not only by the energy and ability of his prosecutions, but also by the careful and painstaking manner in which he prepared his cases for trial. As an example of this latter part of his duty, it may be stated that not once during his long tenure of office did he ever have an indictment quashed because of error or carelessness in its preparation. During his career as state's attorney he prosecuted one of the most noted criminal cases in the annals of Rock Island's court history, the famous Heilwagner murder trial, he being assisted in the prosecution by the Hon. William Jackson. The result was a conviction with the imposition of the death penalty. The accused was ably defended by the Hon. Patrick O'Mara, deceased, and J. L. Haas. The sentence of the court was carried out, it being the last execution in Rock Island County.

After his retirement from the office of state's attorney, Judge Parmenter returned to the general practice of law, and in this he was engaged until 1884, when he was appointed master in chancery by Judge William H. Gest, and this office he held for six years. In 1902 he was elected county judge, and after the expiration of his first term of four years, he was again re-elected in November, 1906, and served until his sudden and untimely death a few months later. His administration of this last office, which involves the supervision of the administration of a large number of estates, besides various other matters, was conducted in the same careful, systematic manner that had marked his career as state's attorney.

On October 3, 1872, he was joined in marriage to Miss Anna B. Oloff, and to them one child, a son, was born, who died at the early age of five years.

Judge Parmenter was a zealous, earnest Christian man, and although in his early manhood he was not affiliated with any church organization, on March 20, 1892, he was ad-





L. S. McCABE.



mitted into full membership with the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Island, and of this church he was a consistent member throughout the remainder of his life, and served as one of its trustees.

He was a member of Trio Lodge, No. 57, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Rock Island Chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons; Rock Island Commandry, No. 18, Knights Templar, and of Kabba Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He held various honorary offices in the different degrees of Masonry, where he was held, as he was everywhere, in the highest regard and esteem.

Upon December 27, 1906, occurred the sudden passing of Judge Parmenter from the vigor of life to the coldness of death. He had returned home from his judicial duties feeling somewhat ill. In a few brief hours he died, having sustained an attack of heart failure. The news of his demise caused the most profound sorrow throughout the entire county, in all parts of which he was so well known. At first it seemed impossible to give the report credence, but when sad confirmation left no doubt as to its truth, mingled with the expressions of sorrow and the sense of personal loss to all who knew him, there was the thought that a good man had gone to his reward. No word of eulogy can add any lustre to the memory of Judge Parmenter. He did right as it was given unto him to see the right. He was faithful in all of life's duties. He did unto others as he desired others to do unto him, and in his simple, earnest Christian life he followed the "Kindly Light" until at last it led him Home.

#### L. S. McCABE.

L. S. McCABE has been a factor in the commercial history of Rock Island County since 1868. He is a native of Delaware County, New York, and was educated in the common schools and academies of that locality.

Coming west in his young manhood, Mr McCabe took up his residence in Rock Island County. He taught school for two terms in the southern part of this county during the time that the Hon. W. H. Gest, the present circuit judge, was county superintendent of schools.

In 1870 his business career as a Rock Island merchant was begun, and his steadily increasing business has been co-incidental with the growth and prosperity of the city. He possessed a firm belief that both Rock Island and Moline had bright futures before them, and later his real estate ventures resulted in the platting of several large residence additions in both those cities, and in these he was either the principal associate or sole owner. He consistently showed his confidence in the future development of this locality by repeated investments in the business district of the city, until he became the owner of the largest area of business property in the commercial center of Rock Island. His active brain has been influential in organizing and developing many of the prominent and successful industries and business enterprises of the county. He was a director and vice-president of the Moline Central Street Car Lines when they were being built and equipped with electricity. This was one of the first electric street railways built and operated in the west. He was also an owner and promoter of Prospect Park in Moline, and later when his traction and park holdings were absorbed by the newly formed Tri-City Street Railway Company, he became a large stockholder in the latter company.

Mr. McCabe was one of the promoters and organizers of the Central Loan and Trust Company of Rock Island, and upon its formation became a director and its first vice-president.

In 1902 he was elected by the Republican party to represent the Thirty-third District in the State Senate, and after serving his term of four years, he declined to again be-

come a candidate for that office, as his business interests demanded so much of his personal attention. He had always been an adherent to Republican principles, but the office of State Senator was the only one for which he had ever been a candidate.

Mr. McCabe is a member of the Broadway Presbyterian Church. He is a charter member of the Rock Island Club, but has never been much identified with fraternal societies or lodges. Being for thirty-six years at the head of one of Rock Island's principal mercantile institutions, his sympathies, advice and aid were much sought and invariably given to every important public undertaking for municipal improvement.

As a diversion and pleasant relaxation from the cares naturally devolving upon the head of a great mercantile house, Mr. McCabe has become an extensive farmer and breeder of blooded beef cattle and swine. He owns and operates several farms both in this county and in Scott County, Iowa, and among his chief pleasures are the entertaining of friends at his summer home on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi, the showing of his great herds of Angus cattle, and the discussion of his various farming projects and in planning their improvement and development.

#### COLONEL EDWARD KITTILSEN.

THE soldier-sheriff of Rock Island County needs no introduction to that county's people. That he is well and favorably known is evidenced by the office with which they have honored him, and which he now holds and fills so acceptably.

Edward Kittilsen was born in Moline, July 19, 1854, his parents being Andrew and Fredrika (Johnson) Kittilsen. His father was a native of Norway and his mother of Sweden. Their son received a public school education in Moline, and upon its completion he entered the business college conducted by Mr. Frey in Rock Island. After pursuing a commercial

course in this institution he served as clerk in a grocery store for a time, and later learned the molder's trade. At twenty years of age he engaged in the ice business, and in that enterprise he was prosperous and successful until the spring of 1880, when his winter's harvest of ice, and his ice house as well, were destroyed by the overflowing of the Mississippi, bringing to him a severe loss. In that same year he was appointed upon the Moline police force, and two years later rose to the rank of deputy marshal, and in 1883 was appointed chief of police, which office he held continuously for more than twenty-three years, or until he resigned to assume the office of sheriff of Rock Island County to which he was elected in November, 1906.

But Mr. Kittilsen has achieved military as well as civil honors. He joined the Illinois State Militia in 1875 and was elected a corporal of his company, later advancing to the rank of first sergeant. Subsequently he became sergeant-major of the Fourteenth Battalion, and after the consolidation of that battalion with the Sixth Regiment he continued to hold that same rank. On April 29, 1886, he was advanced to the office of major, and in 1893 was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Sixth Regiment, Colonel D. Jack Foster being first in command. He held that office for ten years, and on August 13, 1903, was commissioned colonel of that regiment, succeeding Colonel Foster, and which rank he still holds.

In 1898 Mr. Kittilsen was prominently mentioned as a possible candidate for the office of sheriff of Rock Island County, and there is no doubt but that he would have been nominated and elected to that office at that time, but it was then that the call to arms came to the Sixth Regiment to take its stand and enact its part in the defense of the United States in the war with Spain that was then upon us. In Colonel Kittilsen's mind there was no doubt as to where his duty lay, and there was no hesitancy upon his part



COLONEL EDWARD KITTILSEN.





in following that clearly indicated path of duty which he saw before him. His duty was with his regiment, and no matter what self sacrifice upon his part it might involve he proposed to stay with his regiment and to share with it whatever might be its destiny in the war with the foreign power that had been forced upon us. And so, without an instant's faltering, he laid aside an attractive and remunerative civil office that was easily within his grasp had he but stretched forth his hand, and, turning his back upon that bright political future that seemed just about to open for him, he marched resolutely away with his regiment to face whatever dangers it might be called upon to encounter. The unselfishness and patriotism of that act proved the man a hero, and it is well that the people of Rock Island County did not forget that unselfishness or that heroism.

A short review of the movements of the Sixth Regiment during that brief but decisive conflict shows that although but limited opportunity was given to the Sixth to distinguish itself in active service, yet when the men were under fire at the battle of Guanica in Porto Rico they displayed such steadiness and bravery as to be worthy of most honorable mention.

On April 28, 1898, the Sixth Regiment went to Springfield, Illinois, each individual company going directly to that place from its own home city. On April 11th of that same year they were mustered into the United States volunteer service, and together with other regiments they departed for Camp Alger, a receiving camp in Virginia, near the City of Washington. They remained in Camp Alger, where other regiments from different states were constantly being received, and here the Sixth remained until the 5th of July, when they were ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, to take transports for Cuba. The expected transports were somewhat delayed, and it was not until July 10th that the Sixth finally embarked. The Sixth and Seventh were

the only Illinois regiments sent to Camp Alger, and the Sixth was one of the first to arrive at Cuba. Upon their arrival at that island they were under orders to await the surrender of Santiago, which was then being successfully besieged, and while awaiting that city's surrender the transports lay in Sibony Bay. When Santiago fell it crushed the power of Spain in the Island of Cuba, and the services of the waiting regiments were not needed there. But as General Miles was forming an expedition to invest Porto Rico, the Sixth, together with other regiments, was joined to his command, proceeding to Porto Rico on the transports that had brought them to Cuba. They were to land at Guanica, a small fortified town which the Spaniards were holding and where they had stationed a considerable force of cavalry and infantry. A United States gunboat advanced and covered the landing of the troops by a sharp bombardment of the town, the Spanish force retreating to the nearby mountains. An extensive picket line was thrown out about the troops landed, and as nightfall approached the Spaniards, finding that their Mauser rifles possessed greater range than the antiquated Springfield rifles with which the volunteers were armed, began an intermittent, but galling fire. At last, growing more bold, they made a charge and came swarming down from the mountain sides. The Sixth Regiment, with the exception of a few companies had been assigned to picket duty, and as the Spaniards came down their progress was intercepted by a hill which was held by Company G, of Dixon, Illinois. Their advance was stopped by the fire of this company, who succeeded in doing considerable execution among the Dons. This was the only battle in which the Sixth Regiment participated, the treaty of Paris bringing the war to a close soon afterward. From Porto Rico the Sixth embarked for the north upon the transport Manitoba, leaving the port of Ponce. After an uneventful voyage of a few days they arrived at Weehawken, off

New York, and from there they took train directly to Springfield where they remained until they had turned in their arms and equipment, then being given a furlough of sixty days. Upon the expiration of their furlough the companies of the Sixth again returned to Springfield, remaining there until their mustering out, which occurred on November 25, 1898. This ended Colonel Kittilsen's career as an officer in the United States volunteer service, and unless occasion should again arise to demand his return to that service, he will doubtless devote the remainder of his life to the gentle arts of peace.

On the 17th of September, 1884, in Moline, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kittilsen and Miss Corilla Stewart, who had been born and reared in Hamilton, Canada. Five children have been born to them, Myrtle L., Arthur E. William W., John A. and Helen Shiloh, all of whom are now at home.

Mr. Kittilsen has always been a loyal Republican. He is a member of Doric Lodge, No. 319, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Moline Lodge, No. 133 Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Select Knights of America. Although not affiliated with any church himself, his wife is a member of the Baptist Church at Moline, and to this church Mr. Kittilsen gives his support.

Although he has, at the time of the writing of this sketch, held the office of sheriff of Rock Island County scarcely more than a month, he has even in that brief time demonstrated his capability and efficiency as an incumbent of that office, just as he did for twenty-three years as chief of police, and just as he did as colonel of the Sixth Regiment. He is courteous, considerate and obliging. It is certain that he will be one of the best and most popular sheriffs the county has ever had, and when his four years incumbency is at an end he will leave the office with hosts upon hosts of friends in addition to those he already has at the present time. The high-

est compliment that can be paid to Edward Kittilsen is the general opinion among all who know him that he is a man who does his duty as he sees it, and that he is upright, fearless and absolutely sincere.

### GEORGE WAGNER.

A MAN whose perseverance, industry and business sagacity has been largely instrumental in the establishment of one of Rock Island's largest industries was George Wagner, one of the founders of the Rock Island Brewing Company, a man in whom those potential elements that are essential in every successful career, seemed to center.

George Wagner was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, January 13, 1832. He died January 10, 1907, in Rock Island. In his boyhood he attended the common schools of his native land, and there acquired a fair education. After leaving school he was apprenticed to a baker, and in this apprenticeship he remained several years learning his trade.

In 1853 Mr. Wagner, realizing that in America a young man willing and able to work could achieve more than he could possibly hope to in the older countries, left Germany and came to the United States, locating in New York. After working at his trade for two years in that city, he, together with a cousin, came west, settling in Rock Island. Here the two embarked in the bakery business, which they carried on for two years, at the end of which time Mr. Wagner sold out his interest to his cousin who continued in the business. Mr. Wagner moved to Moline, where he again established a bakery, continuing in business for eight years. During these years he was successful, so successful in fact that he felt justified in establishing a steam cracker bakery, the first in this part of the country. This venture also proved a successful one and brought to him substantial returns.

In 1865, having prospered in whatever he had thus far undertaken, Mr. Wagner decided



George Washington





to return to his native land, and with that end in view he sold out his business interests in Moline. He changed his plans, however, and looking about for some new field for his activities he purchased a small brewery in Rock Island, owned by Mr. Schmidt. This business, small in its inception, had a continuous and steady growth until it became one of the most extensive in Illinois. As Mr. Wagner's patronage increased he enlarged his plant and kept abreast of the times by adding modern facilities and equipment. For thirty years he labored in building up and enlarging the scope of his plant, until the forming of the present Rock Island Brewing Company, and amalgamation of the brewing plants of Mr. Wagner, Ignatz Huber and Raible & Stengel. Mr. Wagner's son, Robert, was elected president of this newly formed stock company and Otto Huber, a son of Mr. Ignatz Huber, whose brewery the new company had taken over, became secretary, the younger men thus assuming the more active management of the new enterprise.

In 1853, the same year that he left the fatherland for America, Mr. Wagner was married to Miss Frederica Epinger, a young lady of his native City of Wurtemberg. Together they severed the ties that bound them to their homeland, and bravely set out to face the hardships and privations that they knew they must encounter in a new country. Six children were born of this marriage, three of whom are living, they being Robert, who as has been stated, is the president of the Rock Island Brewing Company, and who resides in Rock Island; Ernest, one of the leading business men of St. Paul, Minnesota; and George, formerly a real estate dealer in Rock Island. Mr. Wagner was for years a member of the Democratic party, but in 1896, when silver was the paramount issue of that party, he voted for William McKinley, as he believed in the maintenance of the gold standard. He was a member of the Odd Fellows and also of the Druids.

For fifty years George Wagner had been a citizen of Rock Island. He was one of those who believed in the future of the city he had chosen for his home, and by his active and progressive spirit did much to promote its industrial growth. He was never actuated by any narrow, selfish motives, but prospering himself he rejoiced in the prosperity of others, knowing that the welfare of one individual alone never furthers but only retards the growth of a community. He was upright and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men and won and merited the esteem of all who knew him. In his old age he lived a life of comparative retirement enjoying the warm regard of many, who, knowing him as he was, found him to be possessed of those qualities that go to make up a good citizen and an honorable man.

#### ROBERT WAGNER.

ONE of Rock Island's native sons, a man upon whom devolves to a large extent the management and control of a great and growing industry, is the subject of this sketch, Robert Wagner, president of the Rock Island Brewing Company.

He is the son of George Wagner, the story of whose life and rise in the world appears elsewhere in this book, and Frederica Wagner. He was born in Rock Island, June 15, 1866. During his boyhood he attended the city's public schools and private German schools, fitting himself for entrance in the University of Iowa, at Iowa City. After attending this institution, he entered the United States Brewers' Academy, in New York City, where he perfected himself in the art of brewing and graduated in 1887, thus fitting himself to take charge of and continue the brewing industry which his father had built up. Having acquired a thorough theoretical knowledge of the subject, he returned to Rock Island, and being desirous of a practical working knowledge as well, he entered his father's

brewery as foreman. He continued in this position for two years, mastering every detail of the business, and then entered into the business with his father, where he remained until the formation of the Rock Island Brewing Company, a merger of the brewing industries of the city. He was elected president of this new stock company, and has held that office ever since. The constant expansion of the business of which he is at the head is largely due to his progressive ideas and able management.

Mr. Wagner was married on November 15, 1894, to Miss Thekla I. Klug, a Davenport young lady, whose father, Otto Klug, was a leading business man of that city and who has now retired. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner occupy a delightful home on Twenty-third Street in Rock Island, their new residence being one of the handsomest in the city. Here in their charming home they do a great deal of entertaining and take a leading part in the social events of the Tri-Cities.

In politics Mr. Wagner is a Democrat, embracing the political allegiance of his father. He has, however, never sought office himself. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and is a director of the Peoples National Bank of Rock Island, in which both he and his father own a large amount of stock.

Like his father, Robert Wagner is an honorable and upright man, scrupulously conscientious in every business and financial transaction, and it follows that he has that large number of warm friends and well-wishers that such conduct always begets. He is a man of whom his native city may well be proud.

#### RUFUS WALKER.

RUFUS WALKER, one of the most extensive fuel dealers in Moline, was born in Williamstown, Orange County, Vermont, December 10, 1839, his parents being Rufus and Susan Walker. Eleven children, seven

boys and four girls, were born to this couple. The father, who was a shoemaker by trade, died December 22, 1839, when the subject of this sketch, the youngest of the large family, was only twelve days old. The seven sons all learned the same trade as the father, that of shoemaking.

Rufus Walker obtained a common school education in Williamstown, and in November, 1860, he left his native state and came west, settling in Rock Island County, where he obtained a clerkship in the general store of Ainsworth & Walker at Edgington. He was employed in this store until July, 1864, when he purchased the business and conducted it until February, 1873, when he removed to Rock Island, and in company with C. E. Dodge purchased the business of E. H. Smyth, which they conducted for three years under the firm name of Walker & Dodge. In the spring of 1876, together with Mr. Meigs Wait, he secured the right of way and about \$22,000 in money for the Mercer County Railroad Company. Mr. Walker ran a general store furnishing supplies during that same year. They also purchased the land where the village of Reynolds now stands, and laid out that town, later going into the lumber business there, and continuing in that business until the winter of 1887. In February, 1882, Mr. Walker moved from Rock Island to Reynolds. When the firm discontinued the lumber business in 1887, Mr. Walker moved from Reynolds to Moline, where for the past eighteen years he has been engaged in the coal and fuel business.

On August 19, 1862, Mr. Walker was married to Miss Jane Edgington, the daughter of John and Susan Edgington of Buffalo Prairie Township in this county. A biographical sketch of Mr. John Edgington appears elsewhere in this volume. Four children have been born of this wedlock, they being John, deceased; Frank B.; Rufus, Jr., who is now in partnership with his father, and Susan E.

Mr. Walker is a member of the Congrega-





*J. M. Gould*

tional Church of Moline. He has never affiliated himself with any fraternal organizations. In politics he is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for party office.

The life of Rufus Walker is the life of the average plain, unostentatious business man. He has been successful in the things that he has undertaken. He is a man highly honorable and with a scrupulous regard for his word. He enjoys a reputation of being a business man of great ability and of high integrity.

### JUDGE J. M. GOULD.

IN THE early days of the west the more favored districts naturally drew to themselves the men of greatest ambition, foresight, and business sagacity. These sought the fields that held out the most to them in the way of promise for the future, and settling there, bent their energies to laying the foundation of prosperity for themselves and their posterity.

Thus it is that Rock Island County has been fortunate in the character of its pioneers. They were not only of sturdy stock fit to endow their descendants with the physical strength to build up a great community but they were also above the average in mental grasp and moral fibre. They were able to discern the opportunities which the region held forth for agriculture, manufacturing, and commerce, and possessed the sound judgment, executive ability, courage and perseverance to organize and direct these to their full fruition.

Of this sort was Hon. John M. Gould, merchant, lumberman, banker and manufacturer. Few men have had so large a share in the up-building of any city as Judge Gould has had in making Moline what it is and rarely, indeed, has any one lived to see the changes wrought in any community that he has seen take place in this thriving manufacturing center. His activities have extended into many fields and

in all of them he has left a permanent impress. Probably no other American of English descent can boast of an ancestry inhabiting American soil longer than that of Judge Gould. Zacheus Gould came to what later became Massachusetts from England in 1634, fourteen years later the Pilgrim fathers landed from the Mayflower at Plymouth, and our subject is of the eighth generation descending from him. The original home of Zacheus Gould still remains in the hands of the family. Amos Gould, grandfather of Judge Gould, was also a native of Massachusetts, and fought for freedom in the war of the Revolution. Soon after the close of that conflict he removed to New Hampshire, where his son, Amos, Jr., father of Judge Gould, was born.

John Maxfield Gould first opened his eyes upon this world at Piermont, New Hampshire, February 24, 1822. He was the oldest of a family of ten children. His mother was Nancy Bartlett, a native of the Granite State, and a daughter of Nathaniel Bartlett, himself a soldier in the Revolution. Amos Gould, Jr. learned the tanner's trade but subsequently engaged in agricultural pursuits and it was on the farm that his children were reared. Nine of the latter removed to the west after they reached manhood and womanhood, and six are still living. The parents came to make their home in Illinois in 1858. The father died in 1864 and the mother in 1884.

Our subject availed himself of such advantages as the common schools of that day afforded, supplementing them with two years attendance at academies at Canaan and Lyme, New Hampshire. For three years after completing his studies he taught school, working on his father's farm in the summer season. Then, attracted by the opportunities the west afforded, and without capital other than willing hands and a stout heart, he left his native state and made his way by the tedious methods of travel of those days to Grand Detour, Ogle County, Illinois, a place that gave promise of becoming an important center.



Here he found work in a general store and served as salesman three years. Having in this time demonstrated his worth to his employer he was admitted to partnership. One year later, in 1848, he disposed of his business interests in Grand Detour and removed to Moline to become a member of the firm of Deere, Tate & Gould, the senior partner, John Deere, afterward the famous plow manufacturer, having previously also engaged in business in a small way at Grand Detour. Mr. Gould acted as financial manager of the new concern at Moline for four years, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Deere becoming sole owner. The junior member formed a partnership with Dewitt C. Dimock for the manufacture of wooden ware, the establishment being the first of that nature in the west. A site for a factory was leased from the government on the Island of Rock Island and business was carried on with great success for many years. In 1867 at the request of the government, the plant was removed to the mainland and a lumber mill was erected the following year, a stock company being formed at this time. Mr. Dimock was chosen president and Mr. Gould vice president. The latter succeeded as head of the company on the death of Mr. Dimock in 1886. In 1890 the woodenware branch was sold to a syndicate and from that time on exclusive attention was given to lumbering and the manufacture of wooden pails. The company owned extensive timber lands in Wisconsin and rafted the logs to Moline. Twice the plant of the company was destroyed by fire, first in 1856 and again in 1875, lightning being the cause in the second instance. Each time it was rebuilt on a larger scale than before and the business grew without interruption.

In 1857 Mr. Gould, in company with D. C. Dimock and C. P. Ryder, established a bank in Moline under the firm name of Gould, Dimock & Company. Mr. Gould had personal charge of this institution and it was successful.

In 1863 it was chartered as the First National Bank of Moline with a paid up capital of \$50,000. Mr. Gould was cashier four years, when he was elected president.

Among the other institutions in which Mr. Gould was actively interested was the Moline Water Power Company which he helped to organize and of which he was elected treasurer and director. He was also a director and treasurer in 1876 of the St. Louis, Rock Island and Chicago Railroad Company, which is now the St. Louis division of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

The title by which he is generally known came to Mr. Gould through his election as county judge for a term shortly after he came to Moline. Opposition to slavery caused him to leave the Democratic party of which he was a member in early life, and he became a Republican when that party was organized. He served sixteen years as member of the state board of charities, and was treasurer of the township of Moline for thirty-three years, during which time he donated to the public schools the sum of \$2,400 in fees to which he was legally entitled.

It is to Judge Gould's public spirit that Moline owes its first direct telegraph service. On his personal guarantee against loss an office was established there and the sum of \$112 was paid upon his pledge before the establishment became self-sustaining.

Judge Gould is the father of the Moline City Hospital. He it was who drew up the charter which requires the city to levy a two-mill tax annually for its support. He has also contributed liberally for its maintenance from his private funds. While not a member of any church, Mr. Gould has contributed largely to the First Baptist Church of Moline.

Mr. Gould has been twice married. He was united August 13, 1848, with Miss Alice Moulton, daughter of William Moulton of Randolph, Vermont, and a second cousin of Secretary Chase of Ohio. Her death occurred when she was a bride of but a few weeks.



WILLIAM McCONOCHE.



At Moline August 9, 1850, Mr. Gould married Miss Hannah M. Dimock, a native of Connecticut and a sister of Dewitt A. Dimock, who later became Mr. Gould's partner. To this union five children were born: Alice May and John, who died in infancy; Frank W., of Moline, Fred G., and Grace Eliza, wife of S. M. Hill of Cleburne, Texas.

### WILLIAM McCONOCHIE.

A MAN who both as a public official and as a prominent citizen has been an important factor in moulding Rock Island's municipal history is William McConochie.

The son of John and Annie (Campbell) McConochie, he was born at Gatehouse, a little village on the southwest coast of Scotland, January 11, 1847. His father's ancestors had lived in that part of Scotland since the days of Wallace and Bruce. His mother's family were Highlanders, and were of the house of Argyle.

The elder McConochies, with their family, emigrated to America in the spring of 1853. Coming westward they settled at Joliet, Illinois, where on August 11th, but a few brief weeks after locating in their newly adopted home, the father died from the effects of a sunstroke, leaving his wife and little ones alone among a strange people and in a strange land. On exactly the same date (August 11th) twenty years later, his wife followed him to the grave. Both are interred at Joliet.

William McConochie attended the public schools of Joliet and the Scotch lad was an apt and proficient pupil. During the winter of 1861-1862, when the South had seceded from the Union, when both sides were active in their preparation for the death struggle; when the martial spirit prevailed and predominated above all else, when the sound of fife and drum were heard throughout the length and breadth of the land; when youth,

rugged manhood and old age vied with each other in their efforts to join those rapidly swelling ranks that were so soon to meet in desperate conflict, the fire of patriotism, fanned into a fierce blaze by the stirring times and scenes, filled the breast of our young Scot and he determined to have a part in fighting the battles of the country of his adoption. But an apparently insurmountable difficulty presented itself—he was too young. Probably no one felt more keenly than he the handicap of youth at that time, yet nothing daunted, he determined that willy-nilly he would be a soldier, and to such determination as his no barrier could successfully be interposed. He had saved some money by selling old iron and rags, and by sawing wood for the neighbors, for in those days wood was the common fuel, and there was plenty of demand for a pair of strong arms and a saw. With the few dollars that he had accumulated he ran away from home and followed some regiments that were going to Cairo, Illinois. After a good many rebuffs, he succeeded at last in being taken along as a drummer boy in one of the companies. His ambition was attained. He was a real soldier on his way to the front. All this time he had been traveling, and had entered his regiment, under an assumed name so that his mother could not find him and have him brought unceremoniously back home. He soon learned from stern realization that the life of a soldier was not as bright and alluring as his young fancy had pictured it in the beginning, but unflinching and undaunted he struck resolutely to the self-imposed life of hardship, enduring its hardships and privations until after the Chattanooga campaign, when the regiment to which he was attached came North with a lot of Rebel prisoners who were to be taken to Rock Island Arsenal, where a Union Military Prison was located. But William McConochie did not reach Rock Island that time, for passing through Joliet from Chicago at midnight

the thermometer down below zero, the soldier lad hungry, cold and scantily clad, the spirit of homesickness and the spirit of war had a little battle between themselves, and the spirit of homesickness conquered, and the boy stopped at Joliet to see his mother. After a few days visit he again enlisted, this time with a Chicago regiment at the front; this time, in his own name. The officers thought him an unusually bright recruit to master the tactics so quickly. They did not know, and never knew that the supposed recruit, still less than eighteen years of age, was in fact a veteran who had seen two years of hard military service, and had participated in some of the greatest and most sanguinary battles in the southwest. Mr. McConochie served as a soldier until some months after the close of the war, always being a private.

After his return to civil life in 1865, he learned the trade of stone cutting. In 1867 he crossed the plains, but soon returned to this part of the country, living at Rock Island, Anamosa, Cedar Rapids, Nauvoo, or wherever his work as a stonecutter might take him in quest of employment.

In 1868 at Rock Island he married Miss Isabel Kitson, a young lady of that city. Six children blessed this union, three sons and three daughters. The oldest son, Captain John McConochie, died in 1896 at the age of twenty-seven. The other two sons, Captain W. H. McConochie and Robert F. McConochie, both of Rock Island, are members of the contracting firm of Wm. McConochie & Sons. The daughters are Isabel, now Mrs. Hollingsworth; Mary, now Mrs. Dade, and Maggie McConochie, at home.

After his marriage Mr. McConochie spent most of his time in Rock Island. In the early seventies there was begun the work of improvement at Government Island, the plans requiring the construction of many new buildings which were to be built of stone. This, of course, required the services of stone-

cutters, and here Mr. McConochie found employment. He continued in that employment for about twenty years. There were times and seasons when the work at the Arsenal was slack and his services were not required. At such times he would go elsewhere in search of work, his journeys in quest of an opportunity to ply his trade sometimes carrying him far down into the southwest.

For several years past Mr. McConochie has been a contractor, and most of his time has been spent at home except the year 1898. During that year the firm of Wm. McConochie & Sons had a large contract in Oklahoma, and as the two junior members of the firm, William H. and Robert F. McConochie, were engaged in the war with Spain, the former as captain of Company A, of Rock Island, and the latter as sergeant of that company, the full burden of supervising and taking charge of the work fell upon Mr. McConochie, and he was obliged to spend most of that year upon the scene of the contract, attending to duties that would otherwise have been assumed by his sons. William H. McConochie, then captain of Company A, as has been stated, succeeded his brother John in that office, the death of the latter having occurred two years before the outbreak of the Spanish War.

But Mr. McConochie's active life has not been devoted exclusively to commercial pursuits. Upon the panorama of politics he has been one of the city's striking figures. A staunch Republican, he has been repeatedly honored by his party with municipal offices, the only ones to which he ever aspired. In 1887 he was elected alderman from the Sixth Ward, and in 1889 was for the first time elected mayor of Rock Island. He was re-elected in 1891. In 1899 he was again a candidate for mayor and was elected. Once more in 1903 he was a candidate for that office and was elected, making eight years in all that he has served Rock Island as its chief executive, one year longer than any



other individual had previously held that office.

His administrations were exceptionally prosperous ones for the city, and he was largely instrumental in inaugurating and carrying forward public improvement by special taxation. He laid the first paving brick ever put down in Rock Island, organized the paid fire department, and was mayor when the various fire stations were built. He was a firm friend of the park system which the city was endeavoring to establish and exerted all his influence toward aiding in the improvement of Spencer and Garney Squares, and co-operating with him the public-spirited citizens of Rock Island were liberal in their contributions of statuary, fountains and ornaments for the beautification of these bright oases in the districts of factories and business houses. He extended Rock Island's sewer and water-main systems, and aided in the building of the electric street railway system, which has done much to change Rock Island from a village to a metropolis. He rebuilt the reservoir system, and constantly urged the erection of a public library building at a time when the city's public library was housed in rented quarters. Although the library was not built during his administration, yet when the contract was finally awarded his firm were the successful bidders, so that he had an active part in the erection of an edifice of which the city may well be proud. The building of the two new iron and steel bridges which span Rock River and connect Rock Island with that part of the county lying south of the city was done under his administration, and thus the inducement was laid for interurban service to seek entrance into Rock Island.

Although a firm Republican and steadfast in loyalty to his party, Mr. McConochie has never been animated by any controversial spirit that would antagonize those of opposite political belief. Consequently, he has hosts of warm friends and supporters

among his political opponents, and their votes have been freely given him whenever he has been a candidate for office.

Mr. McConochie is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Island and has been a member of the official board of that church for ten years. He is also one of the trustees. In his fraternal affiliations he is a member of Trio Lodge No. 57, Ancient Fee and Accepted Masons, and has been a member of that lodge for more than thirty-five years, and a member of Barrett Chapter almost as long. For nearly thirty years he has been a member of Rock Island Commandery of Knights Templar. He is a member of no other societies with the exception of the two military organizations, John Buford Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and Shiloh Command, Union Veterans' Union.

Such is the life history of William McConochie, a man possessed of great executive ability and keen business and financial foresight. Through hard work and diligent application to his business he has acquired a modest fortune, and that fortune is an honest one. Kindly in disposition, gentle in speech, yet unswerving in purpose he commands at once the admiration and respect of those who know him. As mayor of Rock Island he held the reins of government in a firm grasp, but he ruled more through persuasion and argument than through the assumption of mere arbitrary power. Conscientious in his dealings with the world, upright and honorable in every relation in life, he is one of Rock Island's best citizens.

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#### MORRIS GEISMAR.

MORRIS GEISMAR was born April 7, 1868, at Freiburg, Baden, Germany, his parents being Nathan and Frederika Geismar. In 1885 he came to America and immediately located in Rock Island, which city has ever since been his home. In 1886 he entered the employ of the Moline

Wagon Company, taking a position in the collection department of that concern. Ten years later he was elected secretary and treasurer of that company, a position which he now holds. As a part of his duties Mr. Geismar has assumed what may be called the publicity department of the Moline Wagon Company. By systems of judicious and well selected advertising he keeps the name and the virtues of the Moline wagon prominently before the eyes of the entire world's farming interests, these advertisements appearing in many languages and in many lands.

Mr. Geismar was married June 26, 1905, to Miss Carrie Goldsmith, a young lady born and reared in Rock Island. They have one child, a son, Nathaniel E. Geismar.

In politics Mr. Geismar is a Republican, and although he has never been a candidate for office, yet he has been repeatedly selected as a delegate at different conventions of his party.

Mr. Geismar and his wife occupy a prominent place in the social life of the Tri-Cities. He is a member of the Moline Lodge of Elks, and belongs to both the Rock Island and the Moline Clubs.

His conscientious devotion to the duties entrusted to him has resulted in his steady promotion, until he now holds an enviable position in one of Moline's greatest industries.

### JOHN W. POTTER.

NEWSPAPER work is essentially transitory in its nature. The newspaper article that may be read with the most absorbing interest today by thousands is tomorrow forgotten by the eager public as it is then no longer "news" and some more recent event has occurred upon which public attention is centered for a few brief hours. Consequently the newspaper article possesses none of the stability of other literary effort. Rare-

ly is it kept for general reference except in the files of the newspaper office itself. It is read, makes more or less of an impression for a time and is superseded by the next day's issue and tossed aside. To make a permanent impression upon this particularly kaleidoscopic field of the world's work requires something more than mere talent; it requires absolute genius, and the fact that a publisher and editor can make a deep and lasting imprint upon the public conscience—an imprint that remains unobliterated for years after his decease shows him to have possessed that genius. Such a man was John W. Potter deceased, for years publisher and editor of the *Rock Island Argus*.

He was born August 17, 1861, at Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, his parents being John W. and Josephine (Ryan) Potter. That in his early youth he should enter the newspaper field seemed only natural as his environment tended strongly in that direction, both his father and grandfather (whose given names were also John W.) were successful in that profession until the day of their death.

John W. Potter, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch came to America in the year 1853, settling in Buffalo, New York. Here in 1856 occurred his marriage to Miss Josephine Ryan, a young lady born and reared in that city. Soon after his marriage he returned to Ireland with his young wife and there our subject was born, as has been stated, in 1861. The Potters continued to make their home in Ireland until 1865, when the father again returned to America, bringing his family with him. For a short time he again made his home in Buffalo, and then went to St. Louis, Missouri. Four years later he removed to Bolivar, in the same state, where he established and published for several years a newspaper known as the *Bolivar Herald*. Visiting Freeport, Illinois, he disposed of his newspaper plant at Bolivar, and afterward made the former city his home. In Freeport he purchased an interest in the



J W POTTER



Freeport *Bulletin*, and later became its sole owner. In 1882 he purchased the Rock Island *Argus* from Richardson and Powers, then its proprietors. Under their management the paper had not been particularly successful. After his purchase of the *Argus* he placed his son, John W., Jr. in control as managing editor; he having prior to that time resided with his parents in Freeport. Upon the death of his father, which occurred at Freeport in 1885, John W., the son, was left sole proprietor of the *Argus*. He remained its proprietor and editor until his death, which occurred January 11, 1898. When he took charge of the *Argus*, he brought to it the enthusiasm of young manhood, tempered by experience. He set for himself and for his paper a high standard and that standard was maintained throughout his life. The *Argus* was a Democratic party organ, and as its editor Mr. Potter accomplished more for his party during the seventeen years that he edited the paper than any other Democratic newspaper between Omaha and Chicago.

March 5, 1889, occurred the nuptials of John W. Potter and Miss Minnie E. Abbott, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fisher Abbott, one of the best known and most highly respected families in Rock Island. Their married life together was a most happy one, and to them three children were born, a daughter, Marguerite, and two sons, John W. and Ben H. He is survived by his wife and children. One brother, Osler F. Potter, resides at Freeport, and a sister, Marian E. Potter, in Minneapolis.

Mr. Potter during his lifetime was a member of St. Paul Lodge, No. 107, Knights of Pythias, and of C. W. Hawes Camp, No. 1550, Modern Woodmen of America. He was a most delightful man to meet socially; a most genial and polished gentleman.

In 1893 Mr. Potter was appointed postmaster of Rock Island by President Cleveland, and it was during his tenure of the office that the present postoffice was erected upon the

site at the corner of Sixteenth Street and Second Avenue, and the office removed to its new location. In the year 1890 when Ben T. Cable was nominated and elected as Congressman from this congressional district, Mr. Potter was chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee. In politics Mr. Potter was keen and far-sighted.

In conclusion it may be truthfully said of John W. Potter that he was a splendid type of manhood, a man of keen nature, broad mind and liberal in his dealings with his fellow-men; a man generous of impulse and a doer of kindly acts; a man of strong will and tenacious of purpose, yet always open to conviction. His death was a permanent loss to the community in which he lived and toiled and to the newspaper which through his efforts became a power throughout Rock Island County.

### J. SILAS LEAS.

ONE of the old and respected citizens of Rock Island County, a man who stands high in the estimation of all who know him, is J. Silas Leas, who although now spending the closing years of his life in retirement, was at one time engaged in some of Rock Island County's principal manufactures.

He was born October 31, 1830, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, his parents being Christian H. and Julia Ann (Brandt) Leas, both of whom were also natives of that state. His mother died when the subject of our sketch was but two years of age. In his early boyhood Mr. Leas attended the public schools of his home county and also the private academy of Professor Burns. Upon the completion of his course in the academy Mr. Leas entered the employ of his father who was a merchant, and served as his clerk for a number of years.

In 1850 the family decided to come west, and on the 2d day of May in that year they arrived in Rock Island, their new home.



Here the father again opened a general merchandise business, and his son was again for a short time employed as his clerk. Later he was taken into partnership, the firm name being C. H. Leas & Son. In 1854 this firm built the first flour mill in Rock Island, and later disposed of their store in order to devote all their attention to the milling business.

In 1861 they disposed of the mill, and the subject of our sketch purchased an interest in the manufacturing firm of Wycoff & Barnard of Moline, a firm engaged in the manufacture of mill machinery. The firm name was changed from Wycoff & Barnard to Wycoff, Barnard & Company and then changed to Barnard & Leas Manufacturing Company and incorporated under the same name. For nineteen years Mr. Leas traveled for his firm and after that time he devoted his special attention to the securing of patents on his partner's inventions. The business prospered, and from a small beginning the plant was enlarged until today it is one of Moline's chief industries. In 1898 Mr. Leas sold his stock in the concern to Charles A. Barnard, and since that time, as has been said, he has lived a life of retirement. In addition to his interest in this firm Mr. Leas was also for a number of years one of the directors of the Moline National Bank.

On June 29, 1903, Mr. Leas was married to Mrs. Emily Francis (Hersey) Lambert, the daughter of Elijah and Emiline Hersey, who lived in Rock Island for many years. Their happy married life was of short duration, Mrs. Leas dying on January 29, 1907.

Mr. Leas has always been a Republican, and in the early days of Rock Island he served two terms as assessor, being elected upon the Republican ticket.

He has since his majority been prominently connected with the Masons, being a member of Trio Lodge which he joined when twenty-one years of age. Later when Rock Island Lodge was formed he was one of the charter members, and served three terms as master. He is also a member of Barrett Chapter, No.

18, Rock Island Council, No. 20, and of Rock Island Commandery, of which latter organization he is past eminent commander.

During Mr. Leas' lifetime he has accumulated considerable Rock Island real estate, the rise in value of which has brought him handsome profits.

In his long and active business career he had a reputation of highest integrity and of business ability, a man of extraordinary foresight in placing investments and a good and public spirited citizen of Rock Island.

### DAVID HAWES.

DAVID HAWES, the subject of this biography, father of Major Chas. W. and Frank B. Hawes, was born in Belchertown, Massachusetts, October 19, 1809, and died in Rock Island, Illinois, April 20, 1900, aged ninety years six months and one day. In all that makes for good citizenship, it may be truly said that David Hawes was a model. He was one of the earliest settlers of Rock Island. His grandfather, John Hawes, was a Revolutionary soldier, fighting with the American patriots at Lexington and Bunker Hill, and later participating in the capture of Ticonderoga, being wounded in this latter engagement.

David Hawes resided in Massachusetts until 1835, when, in company with Lemuel Andrews, his brother-in-law, he set his face westward. He reached St. Louis a month later, and in October of 1835, arrived in Rock Island. Rock Island, at the time of his arrival here, was a trading post for the Sac and Fox Indians. There were but ten houses in the village inhabited by white men. In December of 1835, Mr. Hawes returned to St. Louis, overland, accompanied by Mr. Andrews. They followed the old Indian or "Cow" trail. The trip was one filled with hardships. Lost in a blizzard, Mr. Andrews almost succumbed and Mr. Hawes struggled through the storm to the nearest settlement. Mr. Andrews was rescued in the nick of time.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. J. F. ROBINSON





*H. Robinson*





In January of 1836, Mr. Hawes returned to Massachusetts from St. Louis, and returned to Illinois, accompanied by his wife, who was Miss Julia M. Babcock, of Ware, Massachusetts, locating at Naples. He engaged in the hotel business at that point for a short time, but in September, 1857, again located in Rock Island. For a time he conducted the old Rock Island House. On September 15, 1870, Mrs. Hawes passed away. Two years later Mr. Hawes was united in wedlock to Mrs. Susan B. Arnold, who survives.

Always of a devout turn of mind, due, no doubt to his Puritan ancestry, it was not until 1850 that Mr. Hawes united with the Baptist Church of Rock Island. On March 27th of that same year he was elected a deacon, and remained a member of that church and an ordained deacon to the day of his death. His conspicuous Christian life, indeed, won the distinction of ordination. It is stated that he was the only deacon ever ordained by the Baptist Church in Rock Island.

From the date of his location here. Mr. Hawes took a leading and active part in every movement designed for the growth and betterment of Rock Island. He was instrumental in the construction of the first sewer in Rock Island. He served the city as alderman and later as acting mayor, and in 1860-1862 was sheriff of Rock Island County. He also held the office of United States Gauger at this point for a number of years, held the office of coroner for twelve years, and for many years prior to and at the time of his death was a justice of the peace.

At the time of his decease, in 1900, besides being the oldest member of the Baptist Church, he was a member of the Old Settlers' Association, with which he affiliated as a charter member, and had held continuous membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, joining in 1848. His funeral attested the love and esteem in which he was

held by the people of Rock Island generally. The services were held at the First Baptist Church, the ceremony being conducted by the pastor, Reverend G. B. Simons, assisted by Reverend H. C. Leland, pastor of the Orion Baptist Church. Rock Island Lodge No. 18, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, conducted the services at the grave.

David Hawes was an earnest Christian, a conscientious public servant, devoted to his family and ardent in his patriotism. He lived the perfect Christian life.



### JAMES FRANKLIN ROBINSON.

A MAN of prominence and wealth, yet unspoiled by his position and prosperity; a man whose life was filled with kindly thoughts and generous deeds; a man of sterling integrity, who typified in his everyday life the highest type of Christian character, was James Franklin Robinson, the subject of this sketch.

He was born in Rock Island County February 27, 1849, and died May 23, 1902, at his home in the city of Rock Island. He was the son of those well known Rock Island County pioneers, a sketch of whose lives is written elsewhere in this book, Captain and Mrs. Thomas J. Robinson.

As a boy, Frank Robinson, as he was known throughout his life in Rock Island, was of a thoughtful and studious bent of mind, and of a deeply religious nature. Unlike many other sons of wealthy parents, he had no inclination toward frivolity and dissipation. His early education was received in the public schools and later he entered an academy and prepared himself for entrance to Northwestern University, where he later graduated in the classical course.

Upon the completion of his collegiate studies Mr. Robinson returned home and entered the bank which his father had established, holding the responsible position of

cashier, a position which he held to the date of his father's death, April 12, 1899—a period of twenty-five years. Upon the death of Captain Robinson, his son succeeded him as President of the bank, and was also made President of the Central Trust and Savings Bank of Rock Island, closely allied to the Rock Island National Bank. Mr. Robinson was a tireless and indefatigable worker. He gave the most profound attention to every duty, bringing to each task the utmost precision and accuracy.

On October 29, 1879, occurred the marriage of Mr. Robinson and Miss Mary Roades, a young lady of Pekin, Illinois. Of this marriage two daughters were born, both of whom died in infancy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were members of the Methodist Church, the church with which Mr. Robinson's father and mother had been affiliated throughout their lives, and in fact which they were instrumental in establishing in Rock Island. Mr. Robinson and his accomplished wife lived unostentatious lives. Their generosity was not confined to public benefactions, but in many instances their presence in the sick room of someone less fortunate than themselves, their active assistance in the relief of suffering and want, has been spoken of by others, although they themselves never alluded to these incidents. Mr. Robinson was a man of fine appreciation; of cultivated literary tastes, a lover of home and of home life. Mrs. Robinson is a singularly accomplished woman, a musician of great talent. Their married life was ideal. Each was a most fitting companion for the other. Their tastes were similar, and their ample fortune enabled them to enjoy the best in travel, music, literature and art.

In addition to the many secret benefactions of Mr. Robinson during his lifetime, he was generous in his aid to educational institutions. To the American University at Washington, D. C., he gave \$25,000; to Denver University, Denver, Colo., \$10,000; to Augustana College

of this city, \$5,000; and to McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., \$5,000.

The real magnanimity of the man is fully shown by the provisions of his will, an instrument disposing of his entire fortune of several hundred thousand dollars, and distributing it amongst church and educational institutions. This will was made after the fullest conference with his wife, who gave its every provision her heartiest approval, and who has not only cheerfully and devotedly given her best energies toward carrying out its provisions, but who has actually increased and added to the fund to be distributed. By the provisions of this will his wife, during her lifetime, is to enjoy the income from the entire fortune and afterward the following objects are named as beneficiaries:

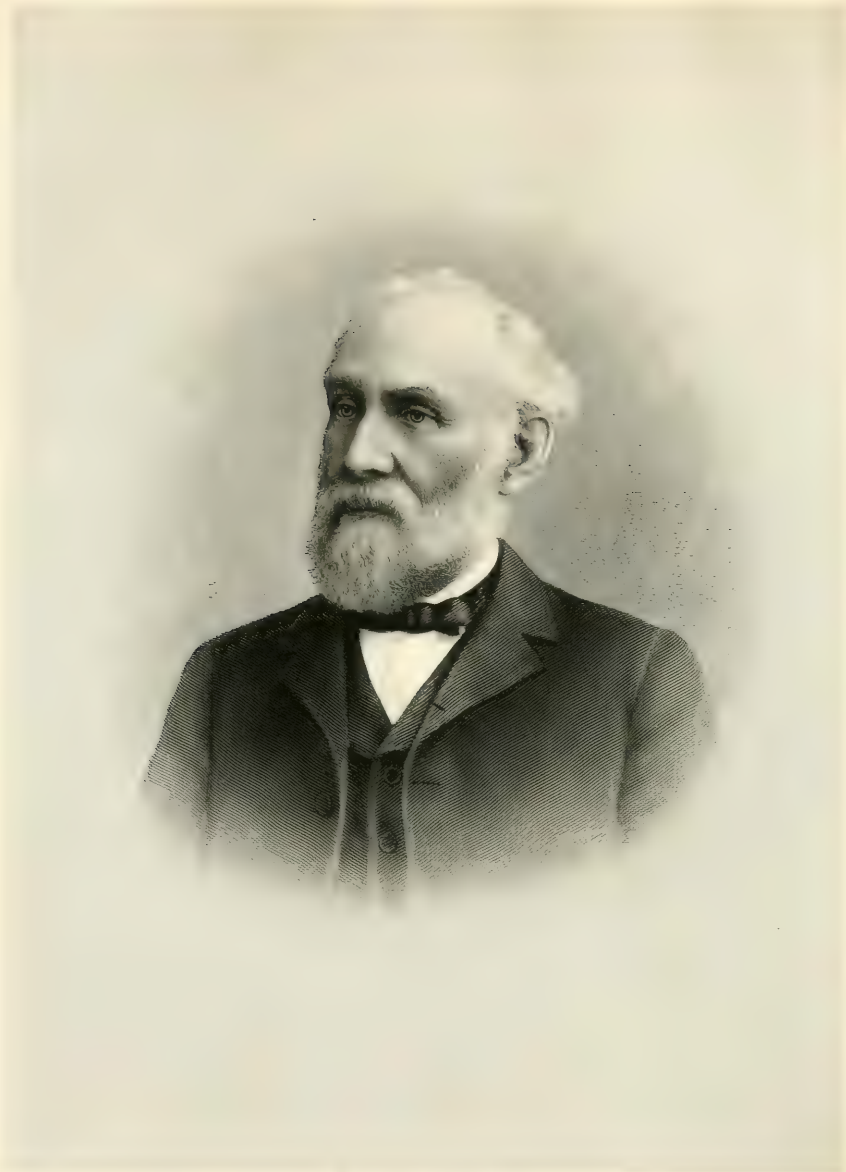
The family homestead, a magnificent estate occupying an entire block in the best residence district in Rock Island, is to be dedicated to the uses of a Deaconess Home and Orphanage, to be held in trust by the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Island.

Mr. Robinson always felt the most lively interest in the growth and welfare of religious and educational institutions. During his lifetime he was a liberal contributor to these institutions which he felt were so essential in the progress and development of Christian civilization, and at his death he left practically his entire fortune to their furtherance and upbuilding.

In a former paragraph the fact of Mr. Robinson's gift of \$5,000 to McKendree College was mentioned. This gift has recently been supplemented by Mrs. Robinson, who from her own income, has given another \$5,000 to the same college, thus enabling that institution to close an offer whereby it secured a permanent endowment fund of \$100,000.

Mr. Robinson's last illness was a lingering one, which baffled medical skill. His death brought to an untimely close a full and active life, that was proving a blessing to humanity. Throughout the city there were many, many





*J. Robinson*

expressions of grief, and of personal loss to those who had known him, and it was the general sentiment that a good man had gone to his reward.



### CAPTAIN THOMAS J. ROBINSON.

THE municipal history of Rock Island contains some illustrious names. It is a city that has been slow in attaining its present proportions, but its growth has been steady and constant. To those hardy and adventurous men who in an early day saw Rock Island's possibilities and expended strength, time and money in laboring to build up what was then a mere handful of people gathered together, great credit must be given. They had faith in Rock Island's future. They labored to make that future a reality, and in their labors they were successful.

One of those men who had a most prominent part in the development of Rock Island, and who in his long and happy lifetime saw the city grow from a small hamlet to a thriving municipality, and who could well feel that his faith in that city he had chosen as his home had not been misplaced, was Captain Thomas J. Robinson.

He was born in Appleton, Maine, July 28, 1818. His father was of English, and his mother of German extraction, though both were natives of the State of Maine. The early youth of their son was spent on the parental farm. Farm life, however, proved most uncongenial to the lad, and he decided to abandon it at the earliest opportunity. While still a mere boy he learned the cooper's trade, and by this means he earned sufficient money to complete a course of study at Kents Hill Academy, and upon the completion of his course he began teaching school in his home neighborhood.

In 1838 he came to Illinois. The journey was a long and tedious one, requiring more than thirty days for its completion. Upon

his arrival in this State he first settled at White Hall, where he secured a school and taught for three years.

During this time he was appointed assessor for Greene County by Governor Carlin. He entered upon this work with the same thoroughness that characterized his every act throughout his life, and made the first perfect list of property that Greene County had ever had. Upon his journey to Illinois the young man had discovered that the subject of water transportation was a most important one, and that it was destined to take a leading part in the development of the new country. He engaged as clerk on a Mississippi packet plying between New Orleans and Memphis, and for two seasons he continued in this position. Upon abandoning this work he made a visit to his home in Maine where he remained for a year.

But Thomas J. Robinson knew that the west was the land of promise for a young man, and at the expiration of the year spent at his home he again returned to Whitehall, coming by way of Chicago. The city was then in its infancy, and Captain Robinson in his later years related that for \$50 he could have bought the plat of ground at the corner of Jackson and Clark Streets, now occupied by the Grand Pacific Hotel. Upon his return to White Hall he again resumed his post as a school teacher, and continued in that vocation for another two years. Then he secured a position as a deputy in the Treasurer's and County Clerk's office, and in this position he remained four years.

On January 15, 1846, occurred the marriage of Thomas J. Robinson and Miss Amy Ann Henderson, a young lady of White Hall. Together with his brother-in-law, Mr. Perry Henderson, he purchased a farm in Rock Island County, near Hillsdale, where he remained for three years. At the end of that time he sold his interest in the farm, and formed a partnership with Temple, Dickerson and Company, with whom for a period of



five years he was engaged in the mercantile and milling business at Port Byron.

As has been said in the opening of this sketch, Captain Robinson was one of those who saw and had faith in the future of Rock Island, and in 1853, upon the dissolution of the partnership above referred to, he removed to this city and purchased of Judge John W. Spencer a partnership interest in the Rock-Island-Davenport ferry. He at once assumed control of the active management of this enterprise and his progressive nature immediately put into effect many improvements, the principal of which was the substitution of steam for the horse as a means of motive power. He also added a second boat to the Company's equipment, thus greatly facilitating and expediting business, to such a degree that Rock Island became one of most noted, as well as one of the most profitable transriver locations on the upper Mississippi.

During his entire lifetime Captain Robinson was one of the most powerful factors in promoting the interests of the city, and always maintained that it, together with Moline and Davenport, would eventually become the leading manufacturing center of the west. He was one of the most prominent figures in Rock Island's industrial progress, and was a promoter of many new manufacturing enterprises. He was one of the organizers of the Rock Island Glass Company, the Illinois Watch Company, the Rock Island Quilt Company, and the Black Diamond Coal Company. While on a business trip to an eastern city in an early day he saw for the first time a street railway in operation. Upon his return to Rock Island he at once advocated the organization of a company for the purpose of connecting Rock Island and Moline by a street railway. The company was organized and the project was carried out. That small system was the nucleus of that splendid system which today connects and ramifies throughout the tri-cities. Captain Robinson was conspicuous on his labors to secure the

location of the Government Arsenal on Rock Island. He gave active assistance in promoting the construction of a railroad between Rock Island and St. Louis, and the line constructed is today the St. Louis Division of the C. B. & Q. He was also identified with Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the lumber king, in the development of the lumber industry in Wisconsin.

In the location and construction of the Hennepin Canal Captain Robinson was particularly active, and besides his individual effort he expended a large amount of money in furtherance of those efforts. From the beginning Captain Robinson had advocated the idea that the Hennepin Canal should be of sufficient size to admit the largest inland vessels, and it was a great disappointment to him that it was not built upon a larger scale.

In the financial field Captain Robinson was conspicuous by his success. In 1871 he founded the Rock Island National Bank, an institution which still exists in handsomely remodeled quarters, and which, since its organization, has held rank as one of the strongest and safest financial institutions in Western Illinois. Captain Robinson was its president from the date of its organization to the time of his death, and so closely and thoroughly was he identified with the institution that it was known by nearly everyone in Rock Island as the "Robinson Bank," rather than by its regular corporate name.

In his political affiliation Captain Robinson was, in his early life, a Henry Clay Whig. Upon the disintegration of the Whig party he gave his allegiance and support to the Republican party, which had but recently been organized. In his sentiments Captain Robinson was always a pronounced anti-slavery advocate. He possessed a very extensive acquaintance with the leading men of the country in both church and state. He was a sincere personal friend of Abraham Lincoln; Richard Yates, Sr., the war governor of Illinois; Governor Richard Oglesby and





*Rev. J. P. Pennington*

others. During the troubled time of the Civil War he was frequently called in council by Governor Yates, and in such high esteem was he held by that great executive that he could have had any appointive office within his gift, but he steadfastly refused political preferment. He did, however, accept the office of associate judge of Rock Island County and president of its board of supervisors during the war, but these offices were urged upon him and he entered upon their duties at a personal expense and inconvenience to himself, but he cheerfully gave both of his time and his talents in the performance of the duties that were entailed.

Both Captain and Mrs. Robinson throughout their lives were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were chief among its influential and generous members. They lived simple, unostentatious lives. They were generous to those less fortunate than themselves, and their generosity consisted not in the mere giving of money but of personal service in relieving the condition of the unfortunate. Of their marriage two sons were born, James Franklin and John. A sketch of the former appears upon another page of this work. The latter son died in infancy.

The death of Mrs. Robinson occurred June 18, 1895, and that of Captain Robinson, April 12, 1899. In their death Rock Island lost a man and woman who lived the finest, highest type of Christian life, and who exemplified, by their kindly, generous acts, the tenets they professed.



### FREDERICK C. A. DENKMANN.

WHEN on March 2, 1905, the spirit of Frederick C. A. Denkmann passed from earth there was completed and rounded out a life that may well serve as an inspiration for American boys of this and succeeding generations, through its disregard of difficulties, steadfastness of purpose, energy

and accomplishment, sterling worth and helpfulness. In such a life there is encouragement for every young man who is constrained to be the architect and builder of his own fortunes, even as this necessity was laid upon Frederick C. A. Denkmann.

He sprang from sturdy German stock, did this great American lumberman, and that his sole inheritance from his ancestors was a clear head reinforced by rugged strength was not the fault of his forbears, but so events were shaped by the fortunes of war. Frederick, mostly called Carl, was born April 8, 1822, at Salzwedel, the ancient capital of Prussia, the youngest son of his father, Diedrich Denkmann. This father had been a successful manufacturer, a man of property and standing in the German city. The Napoleonic wars destroyed his business and swept away his inherited and accumulated wealth. Disheartened and feeling that the lost ground could not be regained, Diedrich Denkmann died, and the little Carl was left to the care of the mother, upon whom great responsibilities devolved.

Circumstances forbade Carl the enjoyment of advantages that his widowed mother would gladly have given him. She was able to provide him with the mere rudiments of an education and could only hope that his native strength of character would make valuable his tutelage in the school of experience. His days in the school room ended at fourteen, and he was placed as apprentice in a machine shop as a preparation for bread winning by hard work which circumstances made imperative. With German thoroughness and an ambition to succeed which was native and individual, Carl mastered his trade. He was in after life such a machinist as any employer is delighted to have upon his payroll. He was grounded in the principles of mechanics to such a degree that no peculiarity of material was puzzling, no nicety of touch too deft for his resourcefulness. In after years when his name appeared upon the roll of shop

employees, this machinist frequently drew equal pay with the supervising foreman as the expert workman of the shop. In the years of his youth and early manhood this strong and steady young artisan was unconsciously laying in preparedness the foundations of the great fortune which was to be his across the ocean.

In the troublous days of 1848 the thoughts of many in Mr. Denkmann's home city were turned to America. It was the land of elbow room, of rich reward, of freedom. Those who journeyed to this land of promise across the Atlantic wrote of the opportunities this country held for those trained in careful ways in thrifty German homes. With his small savings and something more valuable, a knowledge of his craft, Mr. Denkmann joined, in 1849, the tide of those seeking homes in the new world. Little had he to bring beside health and strength, the desire for political liberty and better industrial conditions.

Mr. Denkmann's first abiding place in America was Erie, Pennsylvania. Here he speedily found employment, adapted himself to the conditions of American citizenship and set up his own fireside, December 9, 1849, by wooing and marrying Miss Catherine Bloedel, who had also come from Germany, being a native of Niedersaulheim, a village in the valley of the Rhine.

It is related of him that when he first applied for work in Erie, the foreman of the plant asked him what he could do, and with characteristic frankness he replied, "What those three men over there are doing."

With his steady income as a machinist of high rank these young people were content in their new home for two years after their marriage, and then the advantages of the West called them to the banks of the Mississippi.

Mr. Denkmann had a brother living in Walcott, Iowa, and there the young pair journeyed. After a short visit of reunion the industrious guest looked about for em-

ployment. This offered in Moline, one of the trinity of cities near to Walcott, and there Mr. and Mrs. Denkmann settled. For a time they lived in Moline and then moved to Rock Island, which was their home for more than fifty years, even up to the death of Mr. Denkmann in 1905. And in that long-time home Mrs. Denkmann died January 15, 1907.

On December 9, 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Denkmann celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. In accordance with their usual custom, this was celebrated quietly in the home with a family dinner. It was made the occasion of a very happy reunion, however, and all of the immediate family, children and grandchildren, and other near relatives to the number of about sixty were present.

During the first years of his stay in Rock Island Mr. Denkmann worked at his trade and allowed his savings to accumulate in the thrifty German manner. Then he established himself in the grocery business. This was an incident in his life which seems apart from his steady and consistent climb from the position of a journeyman machinist to that of one of the most prominent lumbermen in the world. But the grocery business served its purpose. A small capital was gotten together which made a sawmill ownership possible. When he placed his name above his modest grocery store the same thorough attention to details and pervading and compelling energy that had made him superior in his old line showed in the new business. Those who knew him in those days recall that he was not content to wait, as other grocers did, until the farmers should bring in their product in order to secure supplies for his customers. Those who patronized the Denkmann grocery had the freshest and best of everything grown on the farms in a wide circuit brought to them by the proprietor and secured by him on an extended trip in the early morning hours while competitors were taking one more nap.



It was in 1860 that Mr. Denkmann formed with his brother-in-law, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the partnership in the lumber business that achieved such monumental success that their names became known wherever in this country logs and lumber were bought and sold. Up to the time that the firm of Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann began operations upon a scale that made them famous in the lumber world, Mr. Denkmann's life had been a quiet one, unmarked by incidents that would attract attention. He had lived a peaceful home life, working with energy and intelligence, but in lines which do not ordinarily lead to wealth and influence. His sphere of action had been circumscribed. He was scarcely known beyond the confines of the home town where he lived for and with his family, and enjoyed the respect of his circle of friends. With the founding of the lumber firm his manner of life was changed, his opportunities and responsibilities broadened. He seemed to have become a favorite of fickle Fortune, and upon him were showered her blessings in golden profusion. When the tide of prosperity did set in, it found him ready. He had been seasoned by poverty in boyhood; he had his unfulfilled dreams of early manhood to bring true. He was almost forty years old when he took hold of lumber making, and the path to greater accomplishment, wider influence and deeper usefulness to the community opened before him.

Frederick Weyerhaeuser, his partner, had been in the employ of Mead, Smith & Marsh, and in charge of a retail yard at Coal Valley, Illinois. This lumber firm had been compelled to go out of business. There was an opportunity to purchase their saw mill and business at small cost and on easy terms. The partnership of Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann was formed after the members had looked over the property and talked of their chances for the future. As a matter of fact, there was never any chance of failure in such a combination. They were both remarkable

men, men of rugged strength, sleepless energy and great courage. Mr. Denkmann's peculiar abilities were supplemented completely by those of Mr. Weyerhaeuser. The latter, trained in the handling of lumber, looked after the sales and log supply. Mr. Denkmann, the skilled machinist, grounded in his line with old world thoroughness, took charge of the manufacture. Under his skillful management the saws hummed a new tune. The new superintendent was fertile in devices for improving the mechanical side of the business. He worked longer hours than any other man on the payroll. His employees used to say that he thought nothing of working all day about the mill looking after important details of manufacture and then would put in half or all the night coaxing some refractory bit of machinery into lint for the next day's run.

The life of the mill superintendent of those days was not that of present times when completely equipped machine shops ready to turn out any desired bit of repair are in telegraphic and express communication. When Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann began business the chief machinist had to be a man who could keep the mill working by contrivance and device self-planned and self-constructed.

The firm which later reached such mammoth proportions began modestly. A small cash payment and some notes secured the mill which was in fairly good condition. The machinery was got in shape by Mr. Denkmann, and the business of getting out lumber for their retail trade commenced. The first season the mechanical genius of Mr. Denkmann, for it seems nothing less than genius to work such wonders under the circumstances—increased the capacity of the mill from 6,000 feet to 15,000 feet per day. Mr. Denkmann's partner looked after his end of the enterprise. Saws multiplied; logs climbed the incline to the mill in closer procession, the freshly sawed lumber slid out upon the trucks in an endless stream. In two years

the mill driven to the top speed of its production had paid for itself and was now the property of this new firm in the lumber world.

The business seemed now well under way, but there were large expenses to be met; obligations must be punctiliously cared for, lest the credit of the firm should suffer, and their credit formed a large part of their working capital. They had little beside except tireless energy and faith in themselves. Strict economy was practiced in manufacture. In many American mills there are mechanical devices in use that date from this mill and those days. They were the invention of the partner-manager of the premier Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann mill and the result of his ceaseless planning to produce lumber as cheaply as possible, to establish a solid business and win success. The output of this mill was increased until it was considered one of the best on the Mississippi River.

Encouraged by their success with this small sawmill property, which in these days is known as the lower mill the firm considered broadening their field. There was another Rock Island mill on the market. It was known as the Skinner mill and was located where is now the site of the division roundhouse of the Rock Island System. This mill was built in 1850 by a Mr. Barnes. In this venture Messrs. Denkmann and Weyerhaeuser were joined by three other gentlemen named Anawalt, Gray and Cropper. The firm thus formed was named Anawalt, Denkmann & Co. This mill was soon in successful operation. Later it was moved and consolidated with the plant of Keator, Wilson & Company, and a new company formed which bore the title, the Rock Island Lumber & Manufacturing Company. This organization by the magnitude of its operations became famous among lumbermen. Its mills formed one of the greatest lumber making plants on the Upper Mississippi River. At the formation of this company Mr. Denkmann was

elected president, and this position of honor and responsibility he held until his death.

The business of the planing mills attached to the sawmills of the Rock Island Lumber & Manufacturing Company, grew to such an importance as to merit a separate organization and a supplemental company known as the Rock Island Sash & Door Works was formed. Of this company Mr. Denkmann was also the president. The latter company operated branches in other cities and covered a wide field. Another outgrowth of the Rock Island Lumber & Manufacturing Company was a string of retail yards located in important town of Kansas and Oklahoma.

One of the later projects of Mr. Denkmann was the purchase and improvement of a mill in Davenport, Iowa, just across the Mississippi River from the other mills operated by his firm. This mill dated back to 1854-5, when it was built by William Renwick. It was purchased by Mr. Denkmann and his partner in 1888. It was fitted up in the most approved manner of the modern mill, and was in every respect a fine double band and gang mill. The product of this mill was up to Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann standards and the Iowa member of the local plant was giving good account of itself when a great fire on July 25, 1901 wrought its complete destruction. This was the first great loss the firm had been called upon to bear during its more than forty years of prosperous business. The mill was not rebuilt. Its site is now occupied by a large retail yard conducted by the firm.

Great local manufacturers of lumber were Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann. In the days when the Chippewa valley store of white pine seemed inexhaustible and a fleet of raftboats was employed in bringing tows to the Rock Island mills, the output of lumber took on great proportions, the product of the four mills for one year being 117,000,000 feet. The average annual production for a number of years was over 100,000,000 feet. In addition to the mills in the cities of Rock Island and

Davenport, the firm's mills in other parts of the country were swelling the country's production of lumber.

At Rock Island the lower mill was operated by the partnership until January 8, 1903, when it was taken over by the corporation, Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann Company. Of this corporation Mr. Denkmann was president.

It is natural when writing of Mr. Denkmann to think of his firm in the light of great manufacturers of lumber, for it was the manufacturing industry of the firm over which he early assumed the direction, and that oversight he maintained until he was called from earth. In that line he excelled others in the same work. His early success was due greatly to his marvelous insight where machinery was concerned. Later, as the business grew, and mills multiplied, executive ability developed that was no less a mark and manifestation of genius. He knew what a day's work for a man or a team or a steamboat ought to be. He was satisfied when this was done, and the confidence of his army of employes was won by his fairness in giving credit for their co-operation. Perhaps a man who has done many a day's work himself is more competent to judge of that commodity as it is bought and sold in the labor market. Mr. Denkmann's expectation of his employes was high, but not unreasonably so. He never required of them the hours and effort that he himself put into his enterprises. He was a leader and not a driver in the industrial world.

The firm of which Mr. Denkmann was a member was a pioneer in the purchase of pine lands. The first tract secured was in the Chippewa valley, and the purchase was made after due consideration of its far-reaching results. It was the precedent, and its profit the argument for the investment of great sums in standing timber. For many years it was the rule of the firm to buy available pine lands even at a price which made the investment seem undesirable to

other lumbermen. The result justified the judgment of Mr. Denkmann and his partner. The lumber sawed by the firm was from logs cut from forests owned by the firm, by men employed by the firm, and towed to the mills by steamboats owned by the firm. Every profit in the manufacture of lumber was turned into the annual dividends.

This purchase of standing pine has gone on steadily for years, on the system entered upon years ago. The transactions have been of such magnitude that the members of this firm are today the largest owners of pine timber in this country, and therefore in the world. Standing timber was bought in Wisconsin, in Michigan, in Minnesota. Vast forests were purchased in Oregon, Idaho and Washington, one tract secured in the latter state by themselves and friends comprising 1,000,000 acres. Of late the firm has investigated, at the request of large transportation companies and others interested in the development of the South, the lumber prospects of that region and has added largely to its land holdings in that section. They are now heavy operators in the South. It is probable that a list of all the timber holdings in which Mr. Denkmann was interested could be compiled from the records of the firm. If so, it would fill pages of this work.

Mr. Denkmann lived to see his early hopes more than fulfilled. At 82 he laid down the responsibilities and pleasures of a long and busy life. The cares of his later years were lightened by his sons, Frederick C. Denkmann and Edward P. Denkmann, who had mastered through early apprenticeship the incidents and intricacies of the lumber business. They have shown adaptability to their work and the initiative and executive necessary in those who control such great interests. Oversight and management were so gradually shifted from the aging father to the sons that the business world was not affected by the passing of the inheritance.

Mrs. Catherine Denkmann, who survived her husband until January 15, 1907, was to him always his greatest incentive to success. He sought her advice and found her judgment sound on all business matters. She kept in touch with his business. Their home life was ideal. Mr. Denkmann, after business cares were over, delighted to spend his time at home with his family. He was a great reader and would read aloud to his wife in their happy evenings together. Her pleasure in having at hand means with which to gratify her benevolent impulses was a constant gratification to him after the Denkmann home was fairly in the sunshine of prosperity.

Mr. and Mrs. Denkmann were the parents of five daughters and two sons. They are: Marie Antoinette, wife of John J. Reimers, of Fort Worth, Texas, a newspaper man; Apolonia Adelaide, wife of Thomas B. Davis, of Rock Island; Frederick C. Denkmann, of Rock Island; Elise Augusta, wife of Wm. H. Marshall, of Rock Island; Catherine, wife of Edward S. Wentworth, an artist, of New York; Edward P. Denkmann, of Rock Island, Illinois, and Susanne C. Denkmann, who lives in the old homestead in Rock Island.

Those who associated with Frederick C. A. Denkmann and knew him well tell of his forceful but unobtrusive life, his active interest in matters of which he said but little. He was not given to taking counsel of others or imparting confidences. His was ever a strong individuality. He took his own means of broadening and enriching his life. His kindness was often felt by those who did not know who had befriended them. Mr. Denkmann preferred to have it so. He was a man of deeds, a tireless worker, a man of quiet habits and modest demeanor. He bore his part in building his city and making it beautiful. His wealth was fairly won in the open field of business competition, and he deserved whatever rewards it brought. All in all he was a type of man it is good for young Americans to know about.

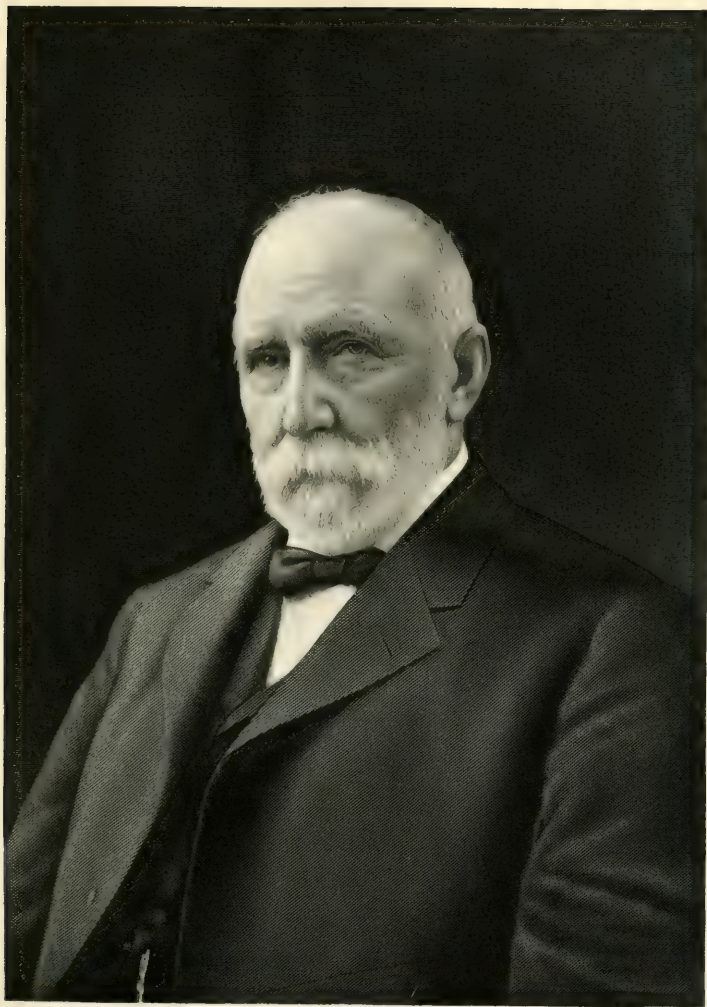
## FREDERICK WEYERHAEUSER.

SHOULD a search be made throughout the length and breadth of the United States, no fairer or finer example of the self-made American could be found than Frederick Weyerhaeuser, lumberman. Brought by chance, in early manhood, in touch with the making of lumber he seized upon this accidental circumstance as upon an opportunity, mastered the rudiments with a thoroughness that has characterized his every action in life, and upon this practical knowledge builded his exceptional business career. One by one he saw the possibilities as they opened before him. Each possibility became to him a probability and was made a certainty. He mastered in turn the details of lumber manufacture and sale of the purchase and economical utilization of pine lands, of log supply in its branches—cutting, sorting and rafting to the mills, details of the building and maintenance of railroads for logging and marketing mill products, of the operation of the various industries subsidiary and supplemental to the principal business of lumber manufacture. Incidentally he became a financier and has been chosen for his judgment to advise and direct great institutions of the financial world.

His career is so interwoven with the growth of the great white-pine industry of the North that it would be difficult to make reference to any chapter in the history of lumbering in that region without mentioning his name.

The story of Frederick Weyerhaeuser's life is so remarkable in its incidents and yet so rational and consistent in the developmental sequence of its events that its telling in very truth would seem like the creation of some master mind in the realm of fiction. The story of his business career, the part he has taken in the development of the Northwest will never be fully known, for such a narration would be of necessity an autobiography, and Mr. Weyerhaeuser is the last man who





*A. Gerhauser*





could be induced to tell of his achievements in detail. Should he serve as his own historian, short and simple would be the annals. His is not the disposition to tell of the prodigious industry and unerring discernment which has made it possible to launch and build up countless industries, amass great wealth and extend the field of his usefulness until it has covered the entire country.

To intimate friends Mr. Weyerhaeuser sometimes talks of himself, but the topics are apt to relate to his boyhood in Germany, his emigration to America, his early trials and deprivations, his determination to do every task assigned him so well that the confidence of his employer could be gained and advancement honestly won. More particularly would he write, if his hand held the biographical pen, and he were sure of friendly interest in those who read, of his days in a little Illinois town where on a small salary he and his bride enjoyed existence as only young people happily married and hopeful of the future can enjoy it. He would tell of his beautiful home life, of his wife and family and cherished friends. He would tell of his desire for simplicity in living and freedom from the burden of social obligation that wealth often brings. To his closest friends he might speak of his interest in other men, the younger ones just putting their shoulders to the wheel, in the older ones, those who have done their best and yet have failed of substantial rewards which have been his own. Frederick Weyerhaeuser is a man whose business success has been noteworthy even in this country where a large measure of success is not uncommon. He has another side upon which his friends delight to dwell. It is Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the good citizen, the admirable neighbor, the kind and sympathizing friend, that his old associates in Rock Island hold in high regard.

Frederick Weyerhaeuser is a native of Niedersaulheim, a village of the Rhine valley, situated near the city of Mainz. Long ago

the little village with the long name was one of the Roman walled cities that the world-conquerors scattered over Germany. It is in the midst of a beautiful agricultural region. The ancestors of Mr. Weyerhaeuser were farmers and vine-dressers. Far yonder toward the dark ages, some four hundred years ago, tradition has it the Weyerhaeusers came from Western Germany to settle in Niedersaulheim. John Weyerhaeuser, the father of Frederick Weyerhaeuser, was one of the solid men of the village, owning a fifteen acre farm and a three acre vineyard. He died at the age of fifty-two, October 6, 1846, when Frederick was about twelve years old.

There were children in the Weyerhaeuser home at Niedersaulheim—eleven of them. Frederick and four sisters survived the others and reached maturity. When a little fellow of six he was sent to the Protestant school. The essential foundations of an education were provided by his teachers and a proper grounding in religious truths also looked after. Mr. Weyerhaeuser remembers that each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon was devoted to the study of the Bible and the church catechism. At eight years of age he commenced work upon the farm helping about such tasks as his strength permitted and received his first valuable lessons in responsibility. Four years later the death of his father made necessary the shortening of his school life and he took upon himself a large part of the work of the farm and vineyard. In life's school the boy was learning other lessons than those in books, lessons of accomplishment, of reliability, of self confidence. That he learned them well his subsequent success testifies. An incident of his boyhood life was his confirmation in the German Reformed Church at the age of fourteen. It might be remarked in this connection that after coming to this country Mr. Weyerhaeuser attended the Lutheran Church and that since his home has been in St. Paul he has been allied with the Presbyterian Church.

During Mr. Weyerhaeuser's boyhood days the thoughts of the people of this German village were turning toward America. In the Rhine valley farming land was high in price and the chance for bettering one's condition small. The United States came to be looked upon as the land of promise, a land where there were broad acres, climatic conditions not unlike those of Germany and a chance for every man. One of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's older sisters and an aunt made a pilgrimage across the water in 1849 and settled in Western Pennsylvania. Their letters turned the longings of the remainder of the family into determination, and in 1852 they followed to the land of opportunity. The party which included Frederick, then a sturdy youth of eighteen, landed in New York City in July of that year and proceeded to Western Pennsylvania, where settlement was made at Northeast, a small place about fifteen miles from Erie.

In this new land the strong boy, trained to work on the farm in the Fatherland, and not afraid of responsibility, turned his attention to any task that offered and they were of all sorts. At one time he fancied learning the trade of a brewer and entered the employment of a relative engaged in brewing. The first year he received \$4 a month; the second and last, \$9 a month. The employment was not congenial. Next he tried farming, and hired out for a year at \$13 a month and board. Had any admirer of Frederick Weyerhaeuser at this stage of his life predicted the brilliant future that he has since experienced, the prophecy would have been considered as impossible as it was ingenious. So does truth outfiction fiction in building the biography of a successful man.

The ancestral farm in Germany having been sold, Mr. Weyerhaeuser, with his share of the proceeds came to the West and to Rock Island, where he arrived in March, 1856. If he at this time glimpsed the future, and saw how broadly his name would be written

across the commercial life of this thriving western town, he kept his fancies to himself. True to his former habits of industry he took the first worthy occupation that offered and went to work on the construction of the Rock Island & Peoria Railway, now a part of the Rock Island System. Soon after he took what seemed a better position, that of night fireman at the sawmill operated by Mead, Smith & Marsh, in Rock Island. Here, then, was the first round of the ladder that led to advancement in the lumber world, that led to wealth and influence and power. From that lowly first foothold the climb was steady, certain and swift.

Two days after he took this position at the mill the night shift was laid off; not so the new fireman. It had taken only two days to show his employers a touch of his quality and he was retained and made tallyman. In this position his duties included keeping account of the output of the one ratory and one mulay saw that formed the vital equipment of the mill and also loading the boards upon trucks. Here he more than earned his wages and established himself with his employers. One day at noon some farmers came to the mill to buy lumber. The salesmen and those in charge were away. The tallyman pushed his lunch bucket to one side, and with the Weyerhaeuser judgment which has since stood its owner in good stead filled the farmers' orders and turned the \$60 in gold he had received over to the salesman when he returned from dinner. Mr. Marsh approved the sale and noted the young German tallyman's readiness and judgment in an emergency. The self-reliance and efficiency manifested in this incident brought about Mr. Weyerhaeuser's being soon given charge of the yard and local sales.

While in the employ of Mead, Smith & Marsh the happiest event in Mr. Weyerhaeuser's eventful life occurred, his marriage to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Bloedel. This young lady came from her home in Erie, Pennsylvania.

early in 1857, to visit her sister, Mrs. F. C. A. Denkmann. She was from Mr. Weyerhaeuser's native village. The bond of interest this created deepened in intensity and ripened into love. Six months later her consent to marriage was won and the ceremony took place October 11. Fifty years later, in October, 1907, the golden wedding was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Weyerhaeuser, with the loving and joyous aid of children and grandchildren at the old home, Rock Island. The first ceremony was a simple one. To its golden anniversary metropolitan newspapers sent picked men to report and illustrate this event.

In December of the year 1857, Mead, Smith & Marsh opened a lumber yard in Coal Valley, Illinois, a flourishing town to which the new railroad had just been completed and which was advantageously located in a fine farming community. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was given charge of this venture which proved a profitable one. While he was gaining valuable experience and knowledge of the demands of lumber purchasers his employing firm were nearing financial straits which finally resulted in such embarrassment that their assets were purchased by Mr. Weyerhaeuser as he was able from time to time until he was fairly embarked in the lumber business for himself and in his own name. This was a time of financial unrest the country over and the modest financial craft just launched was in danger for some months with others that went down.

Coming to Rock Island to secure lumber for his Coal Valley yard Mr. Weyerhaeuser formed the plan of operating the unused mill of his former employers. A raft was bought in Davenport and the idle saws bit into Weyerhaeuser logs. The lumber was laid down in Coal Valley at a cost of \$8 per thousand feet. There was a good margin in the sale of this lumber, and when this was added to the profits of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's operations as a building contractor and grain buyer, the new

business man was delighted to find that during the latter nine months of 1859 he had cleared \$3,000 and during 1860, \$5,000.

When the affairs of Mead, Smith & Marsh were closed up and the old mill put upon the market at a modest figure, with a small sum of cash required to bind the bargain, a partnership was formed between Mr. Weyerhaeuser and his brother-in-law, F. C. A. Denkmann, then conducting a grocery store in Rock Island. The mill was purchased and the future-great firm of Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann commenced operations. In two years the mill had freed itself from incumbrance. Its capacity was steadily increased and in a few years reached an annual output of from 3,000,000 feet to 10,000,000 feet.

The ever increasing lumber business of the firm did not engross their entire attention. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was interested in a number of enterprises in the years succeeding the purchase of the mill. He owned a part of a flouring mill at Coal Valley. He and Mr. Denkmann had an interest in a woolen mill. In 1871 the Coal Valley business was put in charge of an employe and Mr. Weyerhaeuser moved to Rock Island.

Between the years 1858 and 1871 the foundations of the great business of lumbering afterward carried on by the firm were laid broad and deep. The personal characteristics of the members of the firm made their association mutually beneficial. Mr. Denkmann, a fine mechanic, took charge of the mills and surmounted all the mechanical difficulties of manufacture. Like his partner he was possessed of great vigor and executive ability. Mr. Weyerhaeuser's natural abilities and training made him a great salesman, one who knew intimately the wants of customers. His genius in providing a competent log supply for the mills was also early apparent. He was not content with the method of purchase from log drivers then in vogue. He saw that a mill to succeed must be backed by adequate stumpage and took hold of that problem. He

went into the woods and lived with the lumberjacks. He learned how to buy timber and estimate timber lands.

In the northern woods he became endowed with prophetic vision, and cast an anchor to windward, as the sailors say. With the co-operation of his partner, the firm of Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann inaugurated their policy of purchasing pine lands. Great tracts were bought on the Chippewa River and its tributaries. Other lumbermen did likewise. Logs cut at the different camps floated down the stream in confusion. The necessity for sorting the logs of different owners led to the organization of the Mississippi River Logging Company at Chicago, following a meeting of conference attended by representative lumber men of the Northwest, December 28, 1870. This company was destined to occupy a great field in the white pine industry. The logs of stockholders were sorted at great logging works at Beef Slough, Wisconsin, and at West Newton, Minnesota. Logs were purchased by the company from the various stockholders. These logs naturally varied in quality and value. The task of grading and pricing these logs and apportioning the credits to be given the different stockholders was deputed to a committee of which Mr. Weyerhaeuser was the chairman and executive. That his associates felt entire confidence in his uprightness and fairness needs no other proof. Mr. Weyerhaeuser has been the president of the Mississippi River Logging Company since September 5, 1872.

From the time when the log supply was planned, secured and safeguarded, the business of Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann grew with its growth and strengthened with its strength. Each gain in breadth of operation revealed still other fields where development was possible. Other mills were added to the equipment. Timber lands were purchased in other parts of the country and mills established to work the logs into lumber. A list of the corporations and companies in which

Mr. Weyerhaeuser has held an interest and official position would be an astounding revelation of the man's breadth of executive ability and business acumen.

He has always been a consistent follower of his theory formed years ago that the purchase of pine land was always the best thing a lumberman could do. This plan he has followed even after pine land had gone to a figure where further advancement seemed unlikely. He is quoted as saying to a friend who doubted the wisdom of a purchase where the price seemed prohibitive of profit: "I know this much: Whenever I buy timber, I make a profit; whenever I do not buy, I miss an opportunity. I have followed this practice for many years and have not lost anything by it."

Another notable feature of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's business policy has been his belief in co-operation. This principle he has always employed. It has reduced the cost of production by sharing with competitors any general and necessary expense. It has eliminated friction and promoted a cordial understanding among men engaged in the same line of business. If he has at any time planned a large deal, others have been invited to share in the development of the plan and in the profits. This disposition has won for him not only the respect but also the warm regard of associates in the lumber industry.

The habits of a lifetime of industry are not lightly shaken off. Although the necessity for work long ago disappeared, Mr. Weyerhaeuser is devoted to his business. There is much in organization and execution beside the piling up of wealth. There is a joy in accomplishment, and it is this that has kept Mr. Weyerhaeuser from seeking a life of ease which to him would be not only inglorious but distasteful. He is still Frederick Weyerhaeuser, lumberman, and it is easy to predict that he will never write "retired" after his signature. Since his removal to St. Paul from Rock Island, a step made desirable by





ROBERT S. MONTGOMERY.



the location of his newer home in the field of his operations, he has become a member of the Town and Country, the Commercial and the Minnesota Clubs, but his time is spent at his office or in the society of his wife at home.

To Mrs. Weyerhaeuser, the friends of the family who have known the Weyerhaeusers longest and best ascribe a splendid share in the credit for the success which has crowned the modest business beginnings in Rock Island a half century ago. No man ever had a more judicious advisor, say those who know, than this same wife who mingled with her common sense advice at business crises the steady encouragement of love and thoughtfulness. Mr. Weyerhaeuser has also had the invaluable assistance of late years of his four sons, all born and bred in the lumber business. When the character of these lieutenants in charge of the outposts and animated by the same loyalty to the Weyerhaeuser interests that has inspired their founder is considered, the credit for a large share of recent success is apparent.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Weyerhaeuser. The eldest is John P. Weyerhaeuser, now managing the Nebagamon Lumber Company, Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin.

A daughter, Elise, is the wife of Dr. William Baneroff Hill, a member of the faculty of Vassar College.

A daughter, Margaret, now Mrs. J. R. Jewett, lives in Chicago. Her husband is a professor of the Semitic languages in the University of Chicago.

A daughter, Apollonia, is Mrs. S. S. Davis, of Rock Island. Mr. Davis is one of Rock Island's successful business men.

A son, Charles A. Weyerhaeuser, made his reputation as a lumberman in the management of the Pine Tree Lumber Company of Minnesota. He is now president of the Potlatch Lumber Company, with mills in Washington.

A son, Rudolph M. Weyerhaeuser, is in charge of the great interests at Cloquet, Minn.

A son, Frederick E. Weyerhaeuser, after experience at Cloquet and in the South in lumber manufacture, is now at St. Paul serving the family interests as principal assistant to his father.

The greatest tribute paid to the man, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, is the love and admiration of his old friends and neighbors at Rock Island. They esteem him for personal qualities of exceptional sort, for his upright character and for his willingness that all should prosper, even as he has done.



### ROBERT S. MONTGOMERY.

FOR a period of over 35 years the subject of this sketch was one of the leading farmers of Rock Island county. His farm was one of the largest and best under the highest state of cultivation, while the improvements upon it were among the finest and latest in design. Not only was the owner a leader in agricultural, but he was likewise foremost among his fellow men, in church, in politics and in society. His sons and daughters, following the example he set for them, grew into useful men and women and went out to fill responsible positions in the world.

Robert Simington Montgomery was born March 30, 1836, at Danville, Pennsylvania, and died January 6, 1900, at his homestead on section 26, Edgington Township. He was a son of Daniel and Margaret (Simington) Montgomery, natives of the Keystone state, but residents of Rock Island County from the year in which the son was born. The father became one of the chief landholders of the community, entering 1,000 acres from the government where the homestead stood. He also acquired a section of land lying to the south and several other farms in the county, besides a considerable tract in the vicinity of Joliet. The father died in 1849 at the age of

45 and his two sons, Robert and Daniel, succeeded to his landed interests. Both improved the opportunity thus opened to them and both were successful in the highest degree.

Our subject attended the public schools and supplemented them with a collegiate course at Macomb, Illinois, after which he returned to the farm upon which he had been reared, and spent practically all his life there. At the opening of the civil war he organized Company B of the 65th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was elected captain. In this capacity he served throughout the conflict, being thrice wounded and seeing the hardest sort of duty. He took part in the Atlanta campaign and in that in Tennessee. He was in the siege of Knoxville and was taken prisoner, together with his company, at Harper's Ferry, but was paroled on the field and returned to Camp Douglas, Chicago. On being exchanged he rejoined the army in Kentucky and remained there till the end of the war. Wounds were received at Lexington, in front of Atlanta, and at Columbus, Tennessee. The first year after the war Mr. Montgomery spent in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. Then he returned to Illinois and resumed farming, which occupation he continued to follow actively till his death.

Mr. Montgomery was one of the leading members and supporters of the Edgington Presbyterian church, long rated as one of the finest country churches in the state. He supported the principles of the Republican party from the time when he attained the voting age. He was never an office seeker, but was twice honored with election as member of the board of supervisors and for a number of years was school director. Fraternally he affiliated with the Masons.

The marriage of the subject of this sketch to Miss Jane Titterington took place June 23, 1869. His wife, a daughter of James and Eleanor (Beall) Titterington, was like himself, one of the early settlers of the com-

munity. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery: Alexander Boyd, now a practicing physician at Checota, Indian Territory; Elizabeth Simington, now Mrs. William McLean Stewart, of Tishomingo, Indian Territory; Anne Beall, now Mrs. Frank W. Bahnsen, of Rock Island, Illinois; Margaret J., now Mrs. Louis Cole Maynard, of Dallas, Texas; Eleanor Ruth, now Mrs. Edward K. Cherrill, of New York City; Louisa Reed; Daniel T.; James Howard, now in the lumber business at Belle Fourche, South Dakota; and Thomas Candor. Daniel, who was a mining engineer and a young man of great promise, died October 30, 1907, in Ventanas, State of Durango, Mexico.



### HON. HENRY C. SCHAFER

ROCK ISLAND is an exceedingly prosperous and well governed city. Its municipal prosperity must be attributed in a great degree to the business like and economical administration of the city's affairs. Its good government must be attributed likewise to the enforcement of law and the preservation of order, so essential in every well regulated community, by the city's chief executive, Mayor Henry C. Schaffer, the subject of our present sketch.

Henry C. Schaffer was born October 16, 1851, at Baltimore, Maryland, his parents being Conrad and Mary (Hoffmeister) Schaffer. Both his parents were natives of Germany. Their son received his education in the public schools of his native city. One incident of his boyhood is noteworthy, as showing the early development of those traits of character which were to become so pronounced in the man. When the Confederate General, Jubal Early, threatened the City of Washington with an attack, Henry C. Schaffer was a lad thirteen years of age. He was a drummer boy in the Baltimore Home Guards, a company similar to that organized in almost every city of any size at that time. The threatened



HENRY C. SCHAFER





destruction of Washington threw Baltimore into a frenzy of excitement. The company of which Henry Schaffer was the drummer boy was mobilized, together with many other Maryland companies for the purpose of repelling the threatened Confederate invasion. The lad, too young to accompany his comrades without parental consent, which it was impossible for him to obtain, ran away from home to enter the service of his country.

After the completion of his course in the Baltimore Public Schools, Henry C. Schaffer took up a commercial course and became an expert accountant. This profession he followed for a number of years in Chicago. In 1878 he came to Rock Island with O. H. Watson, the owner of the Rock Island Glass Factory. Here he was employed as a bookkeeper at the glass factory, and later was promoted to superintendent of that industry. This latter position he held until the factory was purchased by the Glass Trust and closed. In 1892 Mr. Schaffer entered the employ of John Volk & Company as bookkeeper. Here he remained until 1899, when he was elected city clerk. From that time until the present Mr. Schaffer's life has been essentially a political one, and to continue our sketch in an orderly fashion we must now take up his political career.

Mr. Schaffer's political affiliation is with the Republican party, in whose ranks he has done much effective work. His political career in Rock Island began in 1885 when he was elected a member of the City Council. He served two terms as alderman, retiring from the City Council in 1889. As has been stated, he remained in the employ of John Volk & Company from 1892 until 1899, when he was elected city clerk of Rock Island. To this office he brought a thorough knowledge of accounting and an aptitude for systematizing. This latter quality especially has saved for the city many thousands of dollars. He systematized the collection of water rents, and as a result the revenues of the Water-

works Department have been vastly increased. As city clerk he husbanded the city's resources, insisted strenuously upon economy in expenditures and stood firmly against the incurring of obligations where the way to meet them did not seem clear. He held the office of city clerk from 1899 until the year 1907, when the people of Rock Island showed their confidence in the unswerving integrity of the man, and their appreciation of his services as city clerk, by electing him mayor of the city by a handsome majority. As mayor, Mr. Schaffer is quietly, and in his usual unassuming manner, carrying on those same well-founded policies of systematic economy through wise expenditure that made his administrations as city clerk a success. He is giving Rock Island an effective, clean and sane administration, an administration of which every citizen of Rock Island, regardless of politics, may be proud. Mr. Schaffer's career as mayor was initiated by the bringing about of some much needed reforms in the municipal government. Those reforms, however, have been not merely spasmodic, but have been carried on consistently and conscientiously.

On December 26, 1878, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schaffer and Miss E. F. Delveaux at Indianapolis, Indiana. Five children were born of this marriage, two daughters and three sons, Ida Hawkins, Esther Elcock, Harley W., Carl B., and Henry C. Schaffer. The death of one of the sons, Henry C. Schaffer, his father's namesake, occurred September 30, 1891. Mr. Schaffer was bereaved by the death of his wife August 23, 1891. On September 19, 1895, Mr. Schaffer was united in marriage to Miss Catherine J. McQuade of Rock Island. One child, a son, C. Harry Schaffer, has been born to them.

Mr. Schaffer is an adherent to the Lutheran faith, and is a member of that church. In his fraternal connections he is a member of the Elks and of the Knights of Pythias.

But little more can be said of this man's honorable career, which is now in its zenith. He has enjoyed, is enjoying and will continue to enjoy the confidence and respect of the people of his city. The citizens of Rock Island have repeatedly shown their sincere appreciation of Mr. Schaffer's untiring industry and sterling integrity. He was an ideal city clerk and he is an ideal mayor. He has the reins of city government firmly in hand, and his administration so far has been a wise and just one. There is every reason to feel assured that there will be no departure from that course. His executive ability is of a high order. Both in his official and in his private life Henry C. Schaffer deserves and has the highest esteem of his fellow men.



#### WILLIAM FISK EASTMAN.

**W**ILLIAM FISKE EASTMAN, co-editor with P. S. McGlynn, of the Moline *Daily Dispatch* and *Weekly Review*. *Dispatch*, and postmaster of Moline, was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York, November 11, 1844. His parents were Charles W. Eastman, Doctor of Medicine, and Cynthia (Fiske) Eastman. He attended the public schools of his native village and Union Academy in the neighboring village of Belleville. Graduating there he attended Union College at Schenectady, New York, graduating in the scientific course in 1866, and taking first honors of that course. In the meantime he had been teaching in the district schools, earning in this way and by conducting a book store in his room at college, the money that paid for his college course.

After graduating he came West and taught in the schools of Maquoketa, Iowa, and Sterling and Union Grove, Illinois, expecting to devote his life to that work. In 1872 his health broke down and he sought other business. He purchased the Red Oak (Iowa) *Express* and conducted it a few months when

there came a proposition which he accepted, to go back to Sterling and purchase a half interest in the *Sterling Gazette*. He held his half interest in this for nearly ten years when he sold it because his health again broke down.

He then went to Huron, South Dakota, where he engaged in banking with a partner, spending his own time on a farm about twenty miles away, his partner taking charge of the bank. Unfortunately the business was mismanaged and in June, 1885, he was left without anything he could call his own. After a few months spent on the farm, at the same time being editor of the *Dakota Farmer*, he returned to Sterling to the employ of the *Sterling Gazette*. He later was editor of the *Farmer's Budget* of that city and conducted a job printing shop.

In April, 1889, he came to Moline as a third owner of the *Western Plowman*, which interest he held for twenty months, when he became interested in the *Moline Dispatch*. In June, 1890, the Moline Dispatch Publishing Company was organized with Mr. McGlynn as president and Mr. Eastman as secretary and co-editors of the paper. To comply with the state laws requiring at least three stockholders in a corporation, Mrs. Eastman and Mrs. McGlynn became stockholders, and these our have owned and controlled all the stock from that time. Under this control it has grown to be one of the strong papers of Northern Illinois, with a circulation and advertising patronage probably not exceeded by any paper in the State in a city of the population of Moline. The paper has been Republican in politics and uncompromisingly in favor of temperance and all other reforms.

Mr. Eastman has been married twice. His first marriage was to Miss Frances J. Adams, of Sterling, June 18, 1872. She died February 22, 1876, and June 8, 1880, he married Miss Myra F. Christopher, daughter of John Garrison and Chloe Brewster Christopher, of Byron, Illinois. Their only daughter, Louise C.,

was born October 28, 1881, in Sterling, Illinois. She graduated at the Moline High School and at the State University of Nebraska.

Mrs. Eastman was born May 10, 1850, at Byron. Her father's ancestry reaches back to the Dutch merchantmen of New York, and her mother's to Brewster Bradford and Hopkins of the Mayflower pilgrims. She was a teacher after graduating from the public schools of Byron, and was in the schools of Sterling several years before her marriage.

Mr. Eastman's ancestry is English, and comprises such names among the early settlers of this country as William Brewster, John Dwight, Nathaniel Fairbanks and Henry Adams. Daniel Fiske, his great grandfather, was a surgeon at the battle of Bunker Hill, and a corresponding ancestor on his father's side. Jared Chittenden, was in the Revolutionary Army from 1775 to the battle of Yorktown. His father was in the Army of the Union and was detailed as a surgeon at Camp Dennison, Ohio, where he remained on duty some months after his term of enlistment expired.

In politics Mr. Eastman is a Republican. He has been on the city and county committees of his party and was chairman of the county committee in the strenuous campaign of 1896. He became postmaster of Moline, March 1, 1906.

Mr. Eastman is a member of the Christian Church. He belonged to the church at Rock Island for many years after coming to Moline, and was on its board of officers for seventeen years, and chairman for six years, resigning to assist in the organization of a church of that faith in Moline.



### FRANK MIXTER.

ONE of the chief industrial upbuilders of Rock Island, a man who, as president of two of the City's manufactories, has proven his ability both as an organizer and an executive, is Frank Mixter.

He was born November 7, 1853, at Rock Island, his father being George Mixter, a sketch of whose life appears upon another page. His mother was Susan Elizabeth (Gilbert) Mixter. The genealogical record of both the Mixter and the Gilbert families appears in the sketch of our subject's father, George Mixter.

Frank Mixter's early education was obtained in the public schools of his native City, and after graduating from the High School he entered the University of Heidelberg, at Heidelberg, Germany, for a year. With the exception of that one year at Heidelberg, Mr. Mixter has made his home continuously in Rock Island to the present time.

On April 5, 1877, he was married at Southport, Connecticut, to Miss Elizabeth Bradley, Southport being her birthplace and home. Her forbears were the old Colonial family of Bradleys and Sherwoods, and she is now Regent of Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mixter, a daughter, Florence Louisa, now the wife of Frederick Brown Wells, whose birthplace and early home was also Southport, Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Wells now live at Mount Vernon, New York. A son, William Bradley Mixter, graduated at Yale Scientific School in 1905 with the Degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, and from the Yale College with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. He is now in the employ of the Westinghouse Electrical Company at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Mixter has been, and is, a successful business man. He is president of the Rock Island Stove Company, and also of the Rock Island Buggy Company. He is also a director in the Rock Island Plow Company. It is to the Rock Island Stove Company, however, that Mr. Mixter devotes the most of his time, an industry that is constantly growing and whose output is distributed throughout a large territory.

He is a consistent member of Broadway Presbyterian Church, the church at which his father was an attendant throughout his life.

In politics Mr. Mixer is a Republican, although he has never been an aspirant for political favors.

Mr. Mixer is a member of such an old Rock Island family, and is so well known throughout Rock Island County that any laudatory words would be superfluous. Quiet and unostentatious in manner, in no way egotistic, he has always been known to stand for what were the best interests of the City that is his home. He is a good citizen and a good man, and when that can be truthfully said of any individual it leaves little else unsaid.



#### HUGH A. J. McDONALD.

MR. McDONALD was born in the City of Rock Island, Illinois, November 13, 1862, the son of H. A. J. and Sarah J. McDonald, of Scotch-Irish descent. He was married to Mary C. Gall June 5, 1889, in Rock Island, Illinois. The offspring of this union are Hugh Earl and George Hobart McDonald, both resident in Rock Island.

Mr. McDonald was a member of the State Infantry of Illinois, Company A, Sixth Regiment, from 1884 until 1893, when he resigned with the rank of Captain, which he had held during the last eighteen months of his service.

He was manager of the business of David Don from 1882 to 1902.

On November 13, 1902, he was appointed by Governor Yates as Chief Clerk of Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane, which position he held till March 1, 1906. During this period, for the space of one year—1903 to 1904—he was Captain and Adjutant of his old Regiment, the Sixth Illinois Infantry.

For a period of two years Mr. McDonald was City Collector of Rock Island, resigning the position in 1895, on account of increasing duties in other directions.

Appointed as postmaster at Rock Island, by President Roosevelt, on February 1, 1906, he took charge on March 1.

Mr. McDonald's education was acquired in the public schools and in the International Business College, at Davenport, Iowa.

He is Past Commander of Rock Island Commandery Knights Templars, member of Trio Lodge No. 57 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, member of Rock Island Chapter No. 18 Royal Arch Masons, Kaaba Temple Nobles of Mystic Shrine, etc.

Mr. McDonald is a member of Central Presbyterian Church. In politics he is a Republican.



#### GEORGE MIXTER.

A GENTLEMAN of education, refinement and culture, an Easterner who came to Rock Island in the early days, and who spent a busy and useful lifetime in this community, was George Mixter, deceased, the subject of this sketch.

He was born in Hardwick, Massachusetts, April 28, 1835, and died in Rock Island April 20, 1897. He was of English extraction. The first Mixter who came to America was an English sea captain of that name, who came to this country and settled in Plymouth in 1630, and from him the Mixter family, so well known throughout Rock Island County, trace their ancestry.

Mr. Mixter's education was obtained in the schools of his native State, and later he attended Yale University, then Yale College, from which he graduated in 1836. In that same year he came West and settled in Rock Island, which was his home until his death, with the exception of a few years spent at Dixon, Illinois. He lived in a log cabin on the north side of what is now Second Avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets. Shortly after locating here he took up the study of law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar, but was never engaged in the active



practice of his profession, choosing instead a commercial career. In fact, he was engaged in the trial of but one case. Abandoning his intention of engaging in the practice of law, Mr. Mixer embarked in the lumber business and this engaged his attention until 1863. From an early day until his death Mr. Mixer was interested in many factories both here and elsewhere, but took no active part in their management.

On January 1, 1845, Mr. Mixer was married at Moline, Illinois, to Miss Susan Elizabeth Gilbert. After his marriage he removed with his wife to Dixon, Illinois, where he remained for a few years engaged in a land office. While at Dixon their oldest son, William Gilbert Mixer, was born. He is now professor at Yale. Three children, George, Elizabeth and Mary died when very young. A daughter, Susan, died at the age of twenty-three. Another daughter, Carrie, is now the wife of C. W. Cook. They reside at Shawnee, Oklahoma. Two sons, Charles Knox Mixer and Frank Mixer, live in Rock Island, sketches of their lives appearing elsewhere in this book.

Mr. Mixer was never ambitious to hold political office himself, and although a staunch Republican, the only office he ever held was an honorary one as member of the Rock Island School Board, which position he filled for many years. His broad education and comprehensive knowledge made him a most valuable member of such a Board, and his hand was potent in molding the development of the Rock Island Public Schools. Although, as has been stated, he was not self-seeking in the field of politics, he nevertheless took a keen interest in affairs political. He was a forceful public speaker and made many political speeches during the Fifties and Sixties.

He was a man of deep, religious conviction, and was an attendant of the Broadway Presbyterian Church of Rock Island.

He was a man of most unusual education and attainments in that early day, when a

college education was a rarity and its possessor was a person looked up to and revered because of it. There was about Mr. Mixer, however, not the faintest trace of egotism or conceit, and he walked through the world with that unostentatiousness which always marks the truly well educated man. He was fond of literature, a great reader and a delightful companion, a man greatly beloved by those who knew him, kindly, considerate and of a kindly disposition. In short it may be said that he was a gentleman, possessing all the attributes which that term implies.



### BENJAMIN HARPER.

THE subject of this sketch needs no introduction to the older generation of Rock Island County, the larger enterprises of which he was intimately associated with throughout the many years of his residence here.

Benjamin Harper was born February 12, 1817, in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and died April 3, 1887, in the City of Rock Island, Illinois.

When about fourteen years of age his parents removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served his apprenticeship to the wagon-maker's trade, upon completion of which, that spirit of bold initiative and energy which characterized his whole after life, asserted itself in a determination to launch out upon an independent business career. The story of his start, and his rapid conquest of fortune, affords an interesting contrast to the conditions of success demanded by our modern youth.

Young Benjamin's father was a small farmer, on what was then the Western frontier. Naturally, he possessed scant means that he could afford to venture as a capital stake for his young son, but the boy needed only half a chance, as the event will show. Mr. Harper happened to have in his cellar a considerable stock of cider. This he gave to

Benjamin, telling him to dispose of it as he pleased. Young Harper loaded the cider on to a flat-boat, floated it down the Ohio River to St. Louis, and sold it. With the money this gained he purchased a stock of general merchandise, and pushing North to Piqua, Ohio, there he set up in business, continuing prosperously until the year 1838, when he removed his stock to Tully, Lewis County, near Canton, Missouri, where he added the pork packing business to his other lines. His wealth grew rapidly during the succeeding twelve years, at the expiration of which time, in the year 1850, he closed out his business in Tully, and journeyed Westward to the City that was to be his home during the rest of his life—Rock Island, Illinois.

By this time Mr. Harper had accumulated what was in very fact, in those days, a large fortune—seventy-five thousand dollars. With this capital he established a large packing business in Rock Island, and prosecuted it with such energy and success, that five years later, he became sole owner of the Rock Island Gas Company, in the control of which he continued for a period of twenty years.

With increasing wealth Mr. Harper's field of enterprise widened. He purchased, in 1860, the Island City Hotel, which occupied the present site of the Harper House. Having reconstructed the building, he named it the Rodman House.

The new building burned down before it was completed, inflicting a heavy loss upon Mr. Harper, but, with characteristic courage and energy, he at once began again, and the structure that he erected still stands, the well known Harper House of Rock Island. It was for many years the best hotel in all the West, and it is today in the front rank of Western hostleries—a splendid monument to the local patriotism and generous enterprise of its projector.

The opening of the famous Inn marked an epoch in the history of the City, and the citizens, grateful for the distinguished public

service, presented Mr. Harper with a six-hundred-dollar piano, and a silver pitcher costing two hundred dollars. The house was brilliantly opened on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1871.

Harper Theatre was erected in the year 1878, and to its business Mr. Harpe gave his personal attention for a number of years.

Mr. Harper built more dwelling houses in Rock Island during his life than any other man—one of the highest and most public-spirited forms of service that a wealthy man can render to his city—and to his initiative in this field is largely due the rapid growth of the City's population. He built successfully a number of residences for his own occupancy, the last of these being the stately mansion at the head of Eighteenth Street, where he passed the closing years of his prolonged, active and useful life.

Mr. Harper's friends who survive him, bear testimony to his generous public spirit. The Harper House alone cost him more than a hundred thousand dollars; and it has benefited the business interests of the City to the extent of many times that much. Hundreds of thousands of dollars beside were spent by him in the public and quasi-public improvement. No man has done more than he to make Rock Island the famed and prosperous City that it is.

In politics, Mr. Harper was a staunch Republican. He served with honor as Mayor of Rock Island, to which office he was twice elected. He was a charter member of Rock Island Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

Always alert in promoting new industries for the public welfare, he enjoyed the confidence and grateful regard of his fellow citizens. In his domestic life he was quiet, and of simple tastes, and lovingly devoted to his family.

Mr. Harper's marriage to Miss Elizabeth Perkins, of Moline, Illinois, was solemnized April 1, 1857. Died August 9, 1899.

The members of his family who survive them are:

Lucy, widow of H. J. Lowery, of Chicago.

Elizabeth, wife of F. J. Kinney, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Thomas R., residing in Rock Island.

Stuart, of Rock Island.

Fay R., of New York City.

A son, Benjamin, died in the year 1884, in Rock Island.

### LUKE E. HEMENWAY.

**M**R. LUKE E. HEMENWAY, father of Charles, F., whose biography appears elsewhere in this book, was born in Shoreham, Vermont, August 7, 1816. His father was Francis S., born at Grafton, Massachusetts, January 23, 1784, and his mother was Clara Turrill, born in the year 1786.

He was a direct descendant of Ralph Hemenway and Elizabeth Hewes, who were married at Roxbury, Massachusetts, July 5, 1634. He received a common school education at Shoreham, Vermont. Leaving home at the age of thirteen, he worked in a store at Bethel, Vermont, until the year 1838, when he removed to Grand de Tour, Illinois, where he married Jane E. Marsh, June 23, 1842.

On August 7, 1855, Mr. Hemenway removed to Moline, Illinois, to take charge of the offices of the John Deere Plow Works. In the year 1860 he became a member of the firm of Hemenway, Wyckoff & Company, now the Barnard & Leas Manufacturing Company, and 1864 the call of his country prevailed against the demands of business. He was elected Captain of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois Infantry, and served until the close of the war. Then, his public duty discharged, he returned to Moline and took charge of the office of the Moline Plow Company, in which connection he continued until failing health led him to resign his position in 1875.

Subsequently, he was agent for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, continuing therein until his appointment as postmaster in 1877, which office he held for a period of nine years, Mr. M. J. McEnery succeeding him, under appointment by President Cleveland. He served the City of Moline as Trustee for several terms; also as Alderman, and as City Clerk.

Mr. Hemenway died at Moline, Illinois, April 27, 1903.

Though active in public business, Mr. Hemenway was of a quiet, retiring disposition, and of strong literary tastes. He was a great reader, and up to the time of his death, kept posted in all important current events, and was familiar with the latest literary productions. He was surpassed by few, in private life, in knowledge of Ancient History.

Politically, Mr. Hemenway was originally a Whig, and afterwards a Republican. At the time of his death he was a member of the Tippecanoe Club of Des Moines, Iowa.

His religious affiliation was, for a number of years, with the Universalist Church in Moline, and after that church was dissolved, he joined the Congregational Church.

He was one of the charter members of Doric Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; also a member of the Odd Fellows, and of Graham Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

### CHARLES F. HEMENWAY.

**A**PROMINENT and active figure in the business life of Moline, Illinois, has been, and still is, Mr. Charles F. Hemenway, the well known dealer in real estate and loans.

Mr. Hemenway was born November 1, 1846, at Grand de Tour, Illinois. His father's name was Luke E. Hemenway (to whom a special article is devoted in this book), who married Jane E. Marsh, at Grand de Tour, June 23, 1842.

The Hemenways are direct descendants of Ralph Hemenway and Elizabeth Hewes, who were married at Roxbury, Massachusetts, July 5, 1634. Their grandson, Daniel Hemenway, was a delegate to the convention that framed the Constitution of Massachusetts. He was Treasurer for the Patentees of the Town of Shoreham, Vermont, in the year 1873. From him is descended the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Hemenway received a common school education in the Schools of Grand de Tour and Moline, finishing at the latter place at the age of fourteen.

He left home at the age of fifteen, to accept a position in the postoffice at Lansing, Iowa, November 15, 1861.

On August 13, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, Volunteers, at the age of fifteen years, and was honorably discharged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, June 6, 1865, with the rank of Corporal. Mr. Hemenway served with his company during the campaign in Northern Mississippi, being present at the capture of Holly Springs, of that State. He was detailed as clerk at Headquarters of the Third Brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps, July 11, 1863; again as clerk in the Adjutant-General's Office, Sixteenth Army Corps, December 4, 1863, and as clerk at Headquarters of the Department of Mississippi, January 13, 1865, where he was on duty when discharged.

The war ended, Mr. Hemenway returned home from the service of his country, and on June 12, 1865, entered the First National Bank of Moline, as bookkeeper. In April, 1869, he was elected assistant cashier and active manager of the Manufacturers' Bank of Moline, and in the year 1871 cashier of the Moline National and Moline Savings Banks, which office he filled until 1900, when he resigned to engage in his present business—real estate and loans.

Mr. Hemenway served several terms as Treasurer of the City of Moline, and two

terms as Alderman. He was appointed notary public when he was but twenty-one years of age, and has continued in that office up to the present time.

In politics he has been from the first a Republican. His religious connection is with the First Unitarian Church of Moline.

Mr. Hemenway is a member of Graham Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

He was married November 4, 1869, to Mary E. Harrold, daughter of Henry D. and Nancy Harrold, his wife having been born in Rock Island County, Illinois, February 1, 1848.

Five children were the issue of this union, four of whom are now living, namely: Martha J., wife of C. R. Hull, of Indianapolis, Indiana; Harrold, Francis B. and Joseph C., the three latter residing with their parents in Moline.



#### GEORGE W. STEPHENS.

GEORGE W. STEPHENS was born February 22, 1799, in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and died at Moline, Illinois, July 12, 1892.

He was christened George Washington Stephens because of his birthday being the same as that of the Father of our Country, but he dropped the "Washington" from his name because of a dislike of seeing the names of distinguished men attached to others. His father was Randall Stephens, a soldier of the war of 1812 and the grandson of Captain Alexander Stephens who was attached to the Army of the Second Edward the Pretender. After the battle of Culloden in which the forces of Edward were disastrously defeated, Alexander Stephens fled to this country, where he entered the Army of Washington and fought under him in the French and Indian wars. He founded what was known as the Penn Colony at the junction of the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers in 1746. Some years later a son, Amos, was granted 118-acres of land in West-

moreland County by the State for distinguished service of his father in the Revolution, and this land is still in the possession of the family, the son of a sister owning it.

Alexander afterward went to Georgia, where his grandson, Alexander Hamilton Stephens, became a United States Senator and the Vice-President of the Confederate States. His mother, Martha Boggs, was a resident of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stephens came West in 1841 without a dollar save what he had earned. He had given all he had received from his father to a brother who was married, and whom he thought needed the family inheritance more than he did. He had learned the millwright's trade and had built several mills in Pennsylvania and Ohio, so that he was well equipped for the work there was in Moline. He told his friends when he went away that he would not come back until he had a thousand dollars, an amount that among the farmers of the rugged hills of Pennsylvania was a large fortune. But on his way here he was offered the construction of a mill in Northwestern Pennsylvania, and as he found no work awaiting him on his arrival in Moline he returned and built the mill in Pennsylvania and came back to Moline in 1843. The flouring mill of D. B. Sears was then ready for the machinery. Soon after this he built the sawmill on the Island for Sears, Wood & Company. He had charge of the machinery of that mill for five years. In 1859, in company with Jonathan Huntoon and Timothy Wood, he leased the mill, and two years later the three men bought it, the firm name being Stephens, Huntoon & Wood. They made furniture in addition to running a sawmill. Their mill was a very large one for those times, having a capacity of 3,000,000 feet annually. In 1864 the owners were notified by the Government to leave the Island, but an extension of time was granted them and it was not until 1866 that they left. The Government paid them \$28,270.00 for

their property in 1867. In 1865 Henry Candee, R. K. Swan and Andrew Furberg had organized a company for the manufacture of hayrakes, fanning mills and kindred machinery, with a capital of \$18,000. Mr. Swan believed there was room for a second plow factory in Moline, and when Mr. Stephens was out of the sawmill business Mr. Swan urged him to come into their firm and make it a plow company. The Company was formed with a capital of \$24,000. In 1870 it was incorporated as the Moline Plow Company with a capital of \$250,000. This has been increased until it is now \$6,000,000.

Mr. Stephens became its First Vice-President, holding that position until 1885 when he resigned and made a trip to Mexico. Upon the death of S. W. Wheelock Mr. Stephens was made President and held that position until his death, at which time the Board of Directors passed the following resolutions, showing their sincere regard for him:

"Mr. George Stephens, our dearly beloved President, at the age of four score years and three, departed this mortal life on the night of July 12th. Quietly, peacefully and without pain he passed away, a gentle and fitting end for the kindly gentleman who by his upright and just nature, his unblemished reputation and his amiable characteristics endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact."

"Virtue, truth and sobriety were ever dear to him. All through his life he earnestly endeavored to practice and follow these attributes. Like the sturdy oak of the forest he was a monument of honor and strength among his fellow men, and always stood before the world as a type of the square, just, upright and honorable man."

"He was a plain man, who loved his home and family. He was a just man, who never consciously wronged a person. He was a kind man, whose private aid to the distressed was heartfelt and characteristic of his noble spirit. His memory will long be cherished



by those who enjoyed his acquaintance and friendship. As a tribute to his memory and in commemoration of our regard, esteem and love be it,

*"Resolved and Ordered,* That a page of our records be inscribed with this memorial and copies transmitted to the family and press."

*"By Committee of Board of Directors of Moline Plow Co."*

*"Moline, Illinois, July 21, 1902."*

Mr. Stephens' energy made the business grow from the time he took an interest in it until the factory became one of the largest in the world.

Mr. Stephens' education was limited to that which he could get in the private schools about his home, but he was a great reader, especially on scientific subjects, and he investigated carefully the latest scientific theories as they came out. He was one of the first in Moline to adopt the theory of evolution. His mind became stored with knowledge acquired in this way.

In 1846 he married Miss Mary A. Gardner of Rock Island. She was born near Ithaca, New York, and like her husband, was of a distinguished ancestry, being of the family of Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Esek Hopkins, the founder of the American Navy. She was also a descendant of the Wilkinson family that founded the City of Providence, Rhode Island. She died on the 4th of February, 1888.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephens eight children, six of whom are still living, they being G. A. and C. R. Stephens, Mary, wife of George H. Huntoon; Minnie, wife of F. G. Allen; Nellie, wife of Charles H. Lippincott, Hollywood, California, and Ada E., of Moline.

Mr. Stephens in his life was one of the most genial of men. He met all the men in his employ as men, and they all entertained the highest respect for him as a man. Among business men he was looked to as a clear

headed man whose advice was always sound. He was a man of the highest integrity in all business matters, and his great business ability has been shown in the growth of the great institution of which he was at the head.

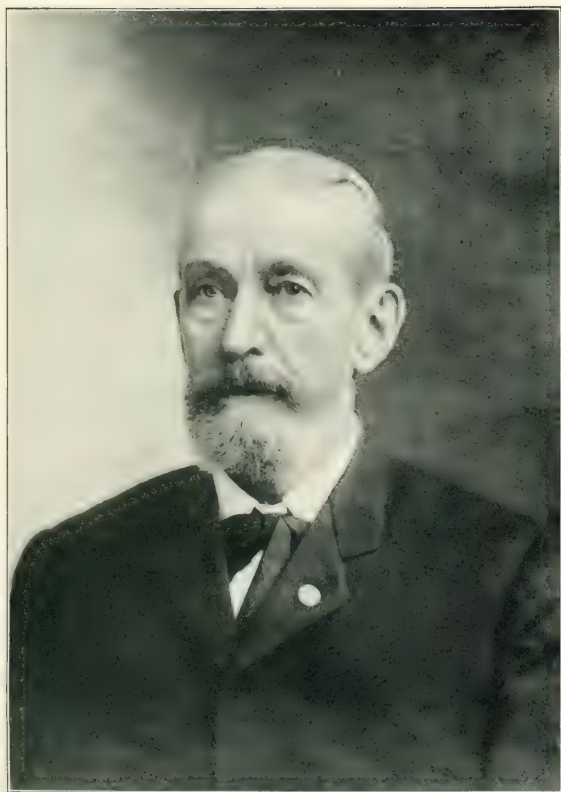


## MAJOR CHARLES W. HAWES.

MAJOR CHARLES W. HAWES is probably the oldest male "native" of Rock Island, Illinois, born within the Village of Stephenson, now embraced in the city limits of Rock Island, prior to 1842. His father was David Hawes, a native of Belcher-town, Massachusetts, and his mother was Julia M. Babcock, a native of Ware, Massachusetts, both of Revolutionary stock. (See biography David Hawes.)

Major Hawes' father arrived in Rock Island from Massachusetts via St. Louis and the Mississippi River in October, 1835, where Mrs. Hawes joined him later, and Major Hawes was born March 7, 1841. He had the advantage of a better education than most frontier boys of his day, attending the Harsha Academy at Dixon, Illinois, after graduating from the local schools.

At the outbreak of the War in 1861, he was serving as deputy sheriff under his father, who was then Sheriff of Rock Island County. On July 20, 1861, Major Hawes enlisted in Company A, of the Thirty-seventh Illinois Infantry, Volunteers, being made first sergeant of the Company. The Companies of the Regiment assembled at Camp Webb, Chicago, Illinois, and it was there, while the Regiment of raw recruits was being whipped into fighting condition, that Major Hawes received his first promotion. He was commissioned second Lieutenant on August 10, 1861. On December 31, 1861, he was commissioned as first Lieutenant, and on July 20, 1862, one year from the date of his enlistment, he was raised to the rank of Captain.



MAJOR CHAS. W. HAWES



As Captain of his Company, Major Hawes served with credit in the Army of the Frontier, later known as the Thirteenth Army Corps, of which his Regiment was a part. With his Regiment he participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge, the engagements at Prairie Grove and Cape Girardeau and in the memorable siege of Vicksburg.

In September, 1863, Major Hawes was again promoted for meritorious service, this time to the rank of Major. He was then transferred to the Ninety-second United States Contraband Troops, then being organized at New Orleans, Louisiana, which Regiment he drilled until orders for active service came. With his Regiment he participated in the Red River campaign, including the battles of Morganzie Bend, Yellow Bayou and Bayou Teche.

In 1865 Major Hawes was assigned to duty as superintendent of the bureau of refugees, contrabands and abandoned lands, with headquarters at New Orleans, Louisiana, and was not mustered out of service until December 31, 1865, having rendered a continuous service of four years and six months.

Major Hawes achieved an enviable reputation as a regimental drill master while in active service, and it was this and his love of the soldier's life that led to his acceptance in 1878 of the captaincy of the Rodman Rifles of Rock Island, which he made the crack Company of the then strong national guard of Illinois, composed, as it was, largely of veterans of the Civil War. In 1879 Major Hawes was commissioned Major of the Fourteenth Battalion, Illinois National Guard, and this was the last military command held by him. An official posit on related to his war time days, however, was his appointment by Governor Richard Yates as a member of the board of trustees of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Quincy, Illinois. He served in this position during the years 1901-1906, inclusive.

In civil life, as well as during war times, Major Hawes was a leader. During the

years 1872-1890, inclusive, he served as chief of police of Rock Island, assistant postmaster, later postmaster, then deputy county clerk.

In November, 1890, at the Springfield, Illinois, Head Camp meeting of the Modern Woodmen Society, Major Hawes entered upon what has proved to be, in civil life, his really distinguished career. At that meeting he participated as a delegate in the reorganization of the society, being elected head clerk or general secretary. Then the society had 42,642 members; now it has over 1,000,000. At each succeeding head camp, or national convention, Major Hawes has been re-elected without opposition, a fact bearing convincing testimony to the ability and integrity of his official course, and to his personal popularity.

Major Hawes enjoys the reputation of having practically created the methods now almost universally employed in the administration and accounting of the fraternal beneficiary system, numbering at present over 7,000,000 members, and 93,000 local lodges. He is a recognized authority in this great field and his official reports are regarded as models. He at this date, is serving his tenth official term as head clerk of the Woodmen Society. He is, besides, prominent in Masonry.

Major Hawes has been twice married. His first wife was Josephine B. Saulpaugh, daughter of L. E. Saulpaugh, of Rock Island, to whom he was married on December 10, 1866. Three children came of this union—Katherine L. (Mrs. James McNamara), Charles W., Jr., and Josephine, deceased. His second wife was Mary C. Fay, daughter of J. M. Fay, of Fulton, Illinois. One son, John Marcus, is the fruit of this union. (See biography of Mrs. Mary Fay-Hawes.)

Major Hawes is a man of the people and his successful and active life is largely due to the fact that he has kept closely in touch at all times with his environment. He is a type of the sturdy pioneer, whose best education

and most valuable asset is a life replete with experience and accomplishments. He has, like so many other pioneer westerners, won an honorable place in history for himself and family by serving the people generally, and the society of which he has for years been an honored official, with an honesty and fidelity that is more to be prized than great riches.

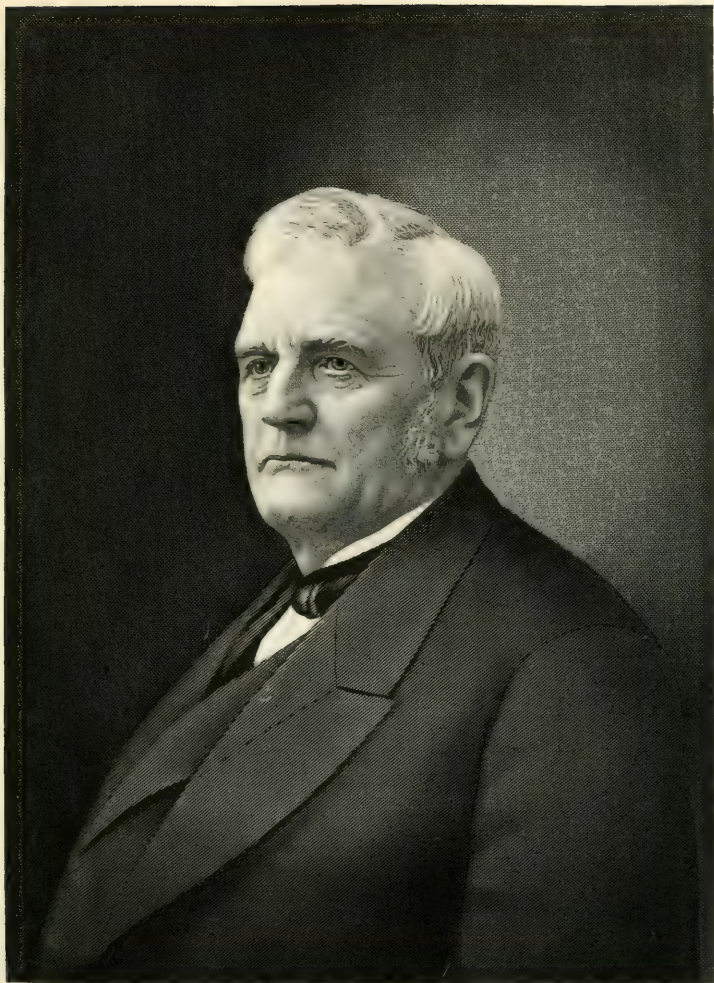
### JOHN DEERE.

NO CITIZEN in Rock Island County, or throughout the country, was probably more widely known than John Deere of Moline. He was born at Rutland, Vermont, February 7, 1804, and died May 17, 1886. 1805 the family moved to Middlebury, Vermont, where the children attended school in a district schoolhouse, which had a long fire place across the end of the room. The reading, writing and little arithmetic obtained here, before he was twelve years old, was the principal educational start Mr. Deere had for life. He afterwards attended private school for a few months, but the inborn inclination for active practical work must assert itself, and the career began, which, for unconquerable energy, determined will, and selfmade success, has few equals, if any superiors. Becoming tired of the schoolroom, he hired himself to a tanner to grind bark, and the pair of shoes and suit of clothes purchased with the wages were the first inclination the mother had of John's doings. At the age of seventeen he became an apprentice to Captain Benjamin Lawrence, and began learning the blacksmith trade. He faithfully worked out his engagement of four years, and was then employed in the shop of William Wells and Ira Allen, to construct iron wagons, buggies and stagecoaches. A year later he was in Burlington, and did the entire wrought iron work on the saw and linseed oil mill built at Colchester Falls. This indicates the mechanical ability of the young man; for it must be remembered that work which is now done by

machinery, in those days must depend upon the skill and strength of the common blacksmith. In 1827 Mr. Deere went to Vergennes, Vermont, and entered into partnership with John McVene, to do general blacksmithing. January 28, 1827, he was married to Demarius Lamb, who became his faithful companion and helper for thirty-eight years.

A change was made in 1829 to Leicester, Vermont, where a shop twenty-five by thirty-five feet was built, which was destroyed six months after, by fire. It was rebuilt, only to be again burned. A third one was built, in which business was carried on till 1831, when the family moved to Hancock, Vermont, where Mr. Deere followed his trade, adding to his general work the business of making forks and hoes. Energy and diligence were bringing in sure but small returns, but the rumors of larger openings and richer rewards in the Great West, induced Mr. Deere to sell out his business, leave his family at Hancock, and come to Chicago. The town was small, unpromising, and planted in a swamp. Strong inducements were urged that he should remain and shoe horses and repair coaches, but he rejected them, and came to Grand de Tour, on Rock river. Here a chop was opened, and to the general work was added the building of breaking-plows. Mr. Deere soon began to see that his iron plow with wooden mold-board could not be made to do good work in the prairie soil; with difficulty they entered the ground, clogged up and failed to scour. Then began the experiments and improvements which finally resulted in the present perfect steel plow. With characteristic energy and will, the battle was pushed till success came. There was a demand for a good plow, and such a plow must be made. The first one which did satisfactory work was made in this way: Wrought-iron landslide and standard steel share and moldboard cut from a sawmill saw, and beam and handles of white oak rails. In 1838 two of these plows were made, with





*John Gere*



which the farmers were much pleased, and did unusually good work for those days. That year Mr. Deere built a dwelling house, eighteen by twenty-four feet, and brought his wife and five children from the East. It was not a few hours' ride in a moving parlor, but a weary journey of six weeks by stage, canal and lumber wagon. Settled in his little home, and often shaking with ague, work was still pushed, and in 1839, ten plows were built, the entire iron work of a new saw and flouring mill being done, with no help except an experienced man as blower and striker. In 1840 a second anvil was put in the shop, and a workman employed, and forty plows made. The following year seventy-five plows were built, and trade extended many miles in all directions. In 1842 one hundred plows were made. The following year a partnership was formed with Major Andrews, a brick shop two stories high built, a horse power put in to turn a grind stone, a small foundry established, and four hundred plows made. Steadily and rapidly the business grew till in 1846 the product was one thousand plows. The difficulty of obtaining steel of the proper dimensions and quality was a great obstacle. Finally Mr. Deere wrote to Nailor & Company, of New York, hardware dealers, explaining the demand of the growing agricultural states of the West, for a good steel plow, and stating the size, thickness and quality of the steel plates he wanted. The reply was that no such steel could be had, but they would send to England and have rollers made for the purpose. An order was sent, the steel cast in England, and shipped to Illinois. Not only was this instance of enterprise and determination shown, but the practical foresight of Mr. Deere saw that this location was not advantageous for a growing business. Coal, iron and steel must be handled by teams from LaSalle, a distance of forty miles, and plows taken long distances to market, in the same slow and expensive way. He therefore sold his interests to Mr.

Andrews and came to Moline, in 1847. Here was good water power, coal in abundance, within three to five miles, and cheap river navigation. A partnership was formed with Mr. R. M. Tate and John M. Gould; shops built and work commenced, resulting the first year in seven hundred plows. About this time the first shipment of steel from England came to hand. Fifty plows were made and sent to different parts of the country where the soil was most difficult to work. They proved successful, the trade enlarged, new machinery was added, the shops enlarged, till the annual production was ten thousand plows. Mr. Deere then bought out the company. In 1858 Mr. Deere took his son, Charles H., into the business as partner (see biography of C. H. Deere), and the business was conducted under the name of Deere & Company till 1868, when it was incorporated under the general law of the State, with John Deere as president.

This business is John Deere's monument on the business side of life. It is the result of quick foresight, practical energy, great executive ability, and an almost resistless will, which were marked characteristics of the man. It is conceded that he was the originator of the steel plow. There was then not only no steel plows in America, but no steel manufactured to make them up. The influence of this improvement in plows cannot be easily estimated. The name of John Deere is at this time a familiar one throughout the world, and the Deere plows are now shipped to China, Japan, and in fact all over the world. They have been awarded medals at almost numberless County, State, National and fraternal exhibitions, and were rewarded the same way at the Vienna exposition of 1873. The principle upon which Mr. Deere conducted the business, and the principle which is still observed, was well expressed by a gentleman long acquainted with his establishment—"Bound to make this plow better than the last."

In personal appearance Mr. Deere was large, well proportioned, strongly built, and had been blessed with strength capable of almost unlimited endurance. In his better days he would stand at his anvil from five in the morning till nine at night, building plows, shoeing horses, etc. His features were strong, and of lines of great power and endurance. His face was open, frank, and his address hearty, genial, bespeaking that he was a man of a tender, social nature and noble character. His feelings were near the surface, and he was singularly sensitive to pathos, whether it be that of sorrow or joy. His sympathy and help quickly responded to the calls of trouble and misfortune, and he rejoiced in the prosperity of all about him. Absorbed in business, he did not have the desire nor time for office and public trusts, which at times sought his service. He was, however, always in sympathy with public interests, and gave liberally of his means to advance them. He was a Republican in politics since the organization of that party. He was an active member of the Congregational Church, and a generous contributor to local and foreign objects of benevolence. The religious, moral and educational interests of society had in him a friend and patron. He was a large stockholder in the First National Bank of Moline, and was its second President. He was once elected Mayor of the City, and was also one of the directors of the free public library.

In June, 1867, Mr. Deere was married to Lucinda Lamb, sister of his former wife. Of the five children by the first marriage, five are still living.

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### FRANK A. LANDEE.

IT IS a safe presumption that Frank A. Landee the widely known retail grocer of Moline, is an example of self made manhood that is worthy of the most persistent and conscientious emulation. Mr. Landee

was born in Kalmar, Sweden, August 11, 1852, and from the moment of his arrival in this country, his career has been marked by unceasing toil and honorable occupation and transactions. From a lad, wholly unknown, his rise has incessantly been in the ascendancy.

He is at the present time a member of the Board of Directors of Augustana College; and is a member of the purchasing and building committee for the same institution; Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Swedish Lutheran Church; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Independent Order Odd Fellows Lodge No. 583 (Swedish) of Moline; Director of the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank; Vice-President of the Moline Furniture Works; Trustee of Court of Honor Lodge No. 100, of Moline; was President of the Swedish Republican State League during Yates governmental campaign; is an active member of the Moline Business Men's Club; is one of the directors of the Retail Merchants Association in his home city, and holds and has held numerous other positions of trust and responsibility during his diligent lifetime.

His attitude toward those who toil is best exemplified by the signal honor bestowed upon him by the linemen of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific general system in the year 1903. For twenty-two years Mr. Landee had charge of the telegraph and electrical department of the Rock Island System, and had during that time, in the face of the most discouraging vicissitudes and resources, so ingratiated himself into the esteem and affections of the thousands of men under his personal direction that they found expression of their appreciation of his equity and consideration only after they had presented him with a valuable gold watch, fittingly inscribed, and a solitaire of great size set in a ring of purest gold, and then after it became generally known that he had retired from railroad life for good. To further denote the widespread popularity of



Mr. Landee's laudatory qualities that he always exhibited toward the workmen under his control, it should be stated that the division west of the Missouri River presented the watch, while the division east of the Big Muddy bestowed the diamond ring. But with all the powerful friendships to call his, and notwithstanding the gigantic strength he wields in the labor business world, Mr. Landee seems a misnomer, taken from a political standpoint. He has not once solicited, nor held a political favor, elective or appointive, regardless of the fact that he has been selected as delegate to City, County, Congressional and State conventions, has served his party with a zeal and compunction which invokes the greatest commendation, has voted the Republican ticket since 1876, when he cast his first vote for President Hayes, and has many times been proffered public honors of various kinds.

As a sturdy, enterprising and up-to-date citizen, Mr. Landee has accomplished an incomprehensible amount of good for the City of Moline and Rock Island County. His aggressiveness, coupled with his energy and prolific mind; his honesty as an example and precept; the obstenorous life he has lived; his patriotism; for his devotion to his family, his county and state and to the welfare of the people generally; his decisive and resolute integrity and fearlessness; his capability as a man of opinions, public and private, all have conspired to entitle him to the appellation by which he is known—one of the most valuable and highly regarded men in the county, in social, provincial, commercial and educational circles.

In company with his brother, George, he settled first in Knox County, in 1866. He acquired such education as was afforded by the schools at that time, working many hours each day the while. Four years afterwards he went to Peoria, where he became a telegraph operator of such unusual speed and accuracy that a year and a half later he was

detailed to Chicago, during the great fire of 1871, to augment the force of telegraphers needed during that memorable catastrophe. Chicago then became his home until 1883 when well earned promotion came, and he was appointed traveling representative of the Western Union, the Atlantic and Pacific, the Baltimore and Ohio, and the National Union Companies, and afterward installed telephone exchanges in various posts of Illinois, including thirty of the first telephones used in Chicago. It was his hand which superintended the work when systems were placed in Quincy, Keokuk, Rock Island, Davenport, Moline, Springfield, and other well known ports. The Mutual Telegraph Company entrusted him with the work in their territory from the Allegheny Mountains, west to St. Paul, and Kansas City south to Louisville. For two years he was office electrician for the Western Union, after which he became general foreman of the Rock Island System, a position he so long filled with unprecedented dexterity, expertness and success. As above stated he is now engaged in the retail grocer business at the corner of Twelfth Street and Fifth Avenue, Moline.

It may truly be said of Mr. Landee, that he has been a "hewer of wood and a drawer of water" from his early boyhood. Unselfish in his labors for the benefit of his friends and the public, coming as he did from the brawn and sinew which have built up the nation, and with which he every day brushes elbows, being a moral, highly respected citizen of which his home city and county may well be proud, he is indeed receiving nothing but his just desserts when the endearment of an appreciative people and an untarnished career designates him a man among men.

The people of the Twin Cities and of the County are under a lasting obligation to Mr. Landee for the material services he has willingly performed by reason of his personal endeavor and influence, and should the opportunity for a reciprocal and mutual



interchange of appreciation ever be afforded, it is safe to predict that Mr. Landee will discern that his labors in behalf of progress, prosperity and good citizenship have not been in vain. What more need be said? What can be said? Public approbation is all sufficient and more impressive than citations or rhetoric.

He was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Johnson, of Knoxville, Illinois, April 9, 1879.

There are four children living, namely: George E., a partner with his father, at Moline; Frank J., a law student at Northwestern College, Chicago; Marriion C. and Anna I.

He was elected as a member of the State Senate in 1906.



### CAPTAIN DAVID M. TIPTON.

IT BECOMES the sad duty of the officer in temporary charge of the Rock Island District to announce the sudden death, on September 22, 1904, of Captain David M. Tipton, Master of the United States Steamer Colonel A. Mackenzie, near Frontenac, in Lake Pepin. Seated in a chair in the pilot house, having but a few minutes before been at the wheel, he passed away in an instant, without previous pain or suffering, from aneurish of the heart.

Captain Tipton, who was about seventy-six years of age at the time of his death, was born on a farm on the Muskingum River in Ohio. At an early age he took to the river, soon became mate and afterwards pilot of the Northern Line Steamers on the Upper Mississippi River, and included in his knowledge the pilotage of the Rock Island and Des Moines Rapids, the Des Moines, Missouri and Illinois Rivers. He entered the service of the Engineer Department in 1873, serving as master and pilot from that time until his death, successively on the Montana, the General Barnard and the Colonel A. Mackenzie, with the exception of two years on the Joseph Henry, of the Light House Department. During his thirty-one years service

on the Government boats he was always faithful, able and skillful, and his place will be hard to fill.

Captain Tipton had a host of friends, and his happy, genial manner and hospitable nature endeared him to all with whom he was associated, and his demise brings sorrow to many hearts. He was never married, but dearly loved the society of children, and was much beloved by them. He also loved animals, and a good horse or dog was a joy to him. In the language of one of his oldest friends "he was one of Nature's gentlemen,—a rare combination of simplicity and shrewdness, of humor and tenderness, and a type of all a Mississippi River pilot ought to be. We shall never look upon his like again."

Captain Tipton was held in great esteem by the officers and associates with whom he was connected in the improvement of the Mississippi River. On a letter sent from this office to Washington, making a request in favor of Captain Tipton, the following indorsement was placed by General A. Mackenzie, Chief of Engineers:

"In consideration of the long, faithful and efficient service of Captain Tipton, and the saving effected by his careful management of the property entrusted to his charge, the Chief of Engineers is pleased to approve the within request."

Captain Tipton was buried at Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island on September 24, 1904, the funeral services having been conducted at the Rock Island Club, of which he was a member. Many of his friends acted as active and honorary pall bearers, and his remains were followed to the grave by them and a large number of other citizens of Rock Island and vicinity.

By direction of MAJOR C. S. RICKE, *Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.*

C. W. DURHAM, *Principal Assistant Engineer.*  
U. S. Engineer Office, Rock Island, Illinois,  
September 26, 1904.

*Official:* C. P. COMEGYS, *Chief Clerk.*

## PATTERSON S. McGLYNN.

PATTERSON S. McGLYNN, one of the proprietors of the *Daily Dispatch*, was born in Connecticut in 1850, of Irish parentage. He was educated by his father to read and write and to be appalled by the multiplication table before being sent to country schools in Iowa, commencing at Washington in the State named, "graduating" to a printing office when he was thirteen years old, and then at the age of sixteen going back to school in the old stone school in Davenport, where his printing-office education raced him through to graduation to the high school. But his education may be said to have been chiefly attained at home and in printing offices.

After service as a printer on the *Davenport Democrat* and on the old *Davenport Gazette*, under the late Ed. Russell, he was promoted to be a reporter on the *Gazette*, with his field in Rock Island in 1876 and 1877. From 1877 to 1880 his home was in Chicago, where he had more printing office and newspaper experience. In 1881 he came to Moline to work for the *Rock Island Union*. After having represented the Union in Moline for more than four years, in company with John K. Groom, he took charge of the editorial management of the *Dispatch*, the firm name having been McGlynn and Groom, Mr. Groom taking the business management. This was in July of 1885. Since that time he has held a half interest in the *Dispatch*, continuing with W. F. Eastman after Mr. Groom sold his interest to that gentleman in 1891.

Mr. McGlynn was married July 5, 1880, in Davenport, to Annie Rose Pester. They have had four children, all of whom died in infancy. He has the distinction of never having sought or held a public office. He has always been a Republican in politics. He is a member of the First Congregational Church of Moline, and is a Mason and a

member of the order of Modern Woodmen and of the Royal Arcanum.

## COL. CHARLES WILLIAM DURHAM.

COL. CHARLES WILLIAM DURHAM is the principal assistant in the engineering office at Rock Island Arsenal. His father, Charles Durham, was born in Belfast, Maine; his mother, Dorcas C. Durham, was born in the town of Brewer of the same State. Mr. Durham, senior, was for the greater part of his life a lumber merchant and vessel owner. Both parents are now dead.

Young Charles was a graduate of Chelsea (Massachusetts) High School in 1864, and graduated Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College in 1868. Thence he went to Germany and studied in Heidelberg University for one year, returning to America in 1869 and entering the Institute of Technology at Boston.

During portions of the years 1870-71 he served the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad in Nebraska. Before the end of the latter year he entered the Government service at Rock Island Arsenal in the Engineering office where he has continued to the present time, except for one year, when he was employed on the United States Survey of Onachita River in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Colonel Durham has had charge of snag-boats on the Upper Mississippi since 1876. He has also had charge of many works of river improvement from Minneapolis to the Missouri River and in addition to his other duties was captain of a snag-boat for a period of twenty years.

He was Colonel and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Illinois for a period of four years and is now retired Colonel of the Illinois National Guard. Colonel Durham has served on the board of education, Rock Island, for a period of nine years and on the library board for six years. In politics he has always been Democratic; in religion a member of the Episcopal Church. He is a Mason, a Knights

Templar, a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, a Rock Island Club Director and secretary of the Marlin Rifle Club.

On November 19, 1875, Colonel Durham was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Brackett. This union has been blessed with four children: Charles Brackett, Mary Ely, Ada Schwatka and John Barnet. Charles Brackett died in 1898.

### SAMUEL HEAGY.

A DOZEN years ago no man perhaps was better known throughout Rock Island County than Samuel Heagy, the subject of this sketch, for years one of the county's influential and respected citizens.

He was born in Taneytown, Maryland, April 20, 1838, and died January 28, 1896. He was the son of a widowed mother, his father having died shortly before his birth. Six years later his mother also passed away, leaving the lad alone in the world. The little boy was taken into the home of a man and his wife in the neighborhood, and with this couple he made his home for ten years, or until he was sixteen years of age, when he left them and went to Baltimore. In that city he secured a position with a wholesale notion house, and remained with that firm until 1857, when he came to Illinois, locating in the Village of Hampton in this county.

Mr. Heagy married Miss Henrietta Birchard April 20, 1863, a young lady whose home was in Scott County, Iowa, just across the river from Hampton. Mrs. Heagy died March 17, 1907, at Rock Island, Illinois. She was the daughter of Jabez Avery Birchard and Lydia (Chamberlin) Birchard. Her parents were early settlers and pioneers of Scott County, Iowa, where they had removed from New York in 1836. Mr. Birchard died October 21, 1871, and his wife ten years later, July 17, 1881.

In 1864 Mr. Heagy embarked in business for himself at Hampton, opening a general store.

March 7, 1866, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Heagy, Morris S. Heagy who now resides in Rock Island.

Mr. Heagy was successful in his business at Hampton and determining to enlarge the scope of his operations he also engaged in the coal business in a small way. This venture also proved a success and in 1868 he formed a partnership with A. R. Stoddard. Continuing in business together under the firm name of Heagy & Stoddard, these gentlemen in 1871 opened the first coal mine in the upper end of the county. The business was soon after incorporated under the name of The Hampton Coal Mining Company, which Company carried on the business for about twelve years. This Company opened and operated seven different mines during this time and around these works grew up the little mining village of Happy Hollow. After the coal deposit was exhausted around Happy Hollow the business was moved over to the southern part of Hampton Township, two miles south of the Town of East Moline, where operations were carried on in a small way until 1892.

In politics Mr. Heagy was a Democrat, and although his active business life did not give him time, nor did he have the inclination, to seek political reward, yet he was ready at all times to serve his party in whatever manner it was considered he could best further its interest and that of the locality in which he made his home. During his lifetime he was a prominent figure in the conventions of his party, was elected to the office of trustee of the Village of Hampton, and for more than twenty years was school treasurer of Hampton Township.

He was a member of the Masonic order and was a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

As has been stated, his death occurred January 28, 1896, interment being in the beautiful Oakdale Cemetery at Davenport.



DR. RICHARD F. SWEET





No eulogy of Samuel Heagy is necessary to recall to those who knew him in life the sterling character that he possessed and the splendid reputation that he bore. He was a man of scrupulous integrity, a man who did unto others as he wished others to do unto him.



### REVEREND R. F. SWEET, D. D.

THE old axiom which tells us that kind deeds and gentle words live forever is one which not only inspires the mind with its sublimity, but its truth is so often brought home to us, and so forcibly that it affords a solace we do not always feel. A noble life invariably begets its full measure of love and veneration, and even though myriads of kindness done and self-sacrificing efforts are lost to earth the hand-maidens of the Great Seer of Heaven have the fullest knowledge of them all.

All men who have been so graciously endowed with that most precious of all human attributes—love for his fellow-men—have been amply repaid for their self-obligation, generosity and charity; for their weakness, submissiveness and obedience to the mandates of the Deity.

This truism was abundantly exemplified during the lifetime of Reverend R. F. Sweet, and substantiated by the wealth of love which his memory impels. Instead of donning the robes and authority of a bishop an elevation twice proffered him, Mr. Sweet preferred to retain the modest position of rector, so that he could more generally and more frequently minister to humanity; unassuming to the extreme, he nevertheless accomplished inconceivable good and lightened numerous burdens worldly and spiritual, and was content to reap the harvest of brotherly love which was his, rather than hoard sordid accumulations.

Even this brief reflection of Mr. Sweet's busy and fruitful life suffices to instruct the

reader as to his gentle though manly disposition, and illustrates how little he thought of self, and to what degree he toiled for the uplifting of his brethern and the church universal.

Reverend Sweet was a native of the Bay State. When sixteen years of age he was in business with an uncle at Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Later he became a dealer in real estate, in Madison, Wisconsin, and afterwards was Assistant Comptroller of the banks in the Badger State. In 1861 his devout nature impelled him to enter Nashotah Seminary, from which he graduated three years later, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was ordained by Bishop Kewper, and was assigned to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, as a deacon. After his ordination as a bishop of the Episcopal Church, he served as financial agent of Nashotah Seminary, an institution which owes an incalculable debt to his assiduous efforts and accomplishments. He traveled both throughout America and England in behalf of the Seminary, and after his return to his native land he was assigned to Waukegon, Illinois, thence to the Church of the Ephiphany, at Chicago, Illinois, thence to Freeport, Illinois. In 1884 he became rector of Trinity Episcopal Church at Rock Island, Illinois. At the time of his death, December 10, 1904, he had completed a service in this city of twenty years. He was a trustee of Nashotah and Western Seminaries; Deputy to the General Convention for many years, and had always been prominent in the diocese of Quincy and for years dear to the Rock Island deanery.



### MAJOR JAMES M. BEARDSLEY.

THE above named and beloved patriot was of that branch of the Beardsley family which trace their genealogy in America as far back as 1628. Major Beardsley was born October 30, 1833, at Ellington, Chautauqua County (near the reservation of

the Six Nations), New York State, died at Rock Island, August 22, 1903. He came to his future home, this city, in the middle 50's, while still in his teens, and, though young he was, his inordinate intellect, retentive mind and assiduity had enabled him to attain a thorough academic training.

Being admitted to the bar, Mr. Beardsley soon won the highest laurels as a counsellor, orator and diplomat. Being blessed with a giant's physique, and endued with a mind that was marvelous for its strength and resourcefulness; being an advocate of the abolition of slavery, he soon became one of the most potential factors in the West, in both public and private affairs. He assisted in organizing the first Company of Volunteers in Rock Island—Company D, of the Thirtieth Illinois Infantry—which first served in State duty, and was mustered into three years' service in the regular ranks May 24, 1861. He was commissioned First Lieutenant of Company D. The Regiment to which he belonged became known as "Freemont's Greyhounds."

While acting as body guard to General Lyons, Major Beardsley was actively engaged in the stubbornly contested battle of William's Creek. He was at the General's side and carried him from the field when he fell, mortally wounded, and was promoted for gallantry in that engagement, August 10, 1861, being raised to the rank of Captain of Company D, Vice Captain Quincy McNeil, promoted to the rank of Major in the Second Cavalry. Later Major Beardsley's Regiment became a part of General Sherman's Army, known as the Fifteenth Army Corps. The bloody battles in which this contingent was involved is all too plainly recorded in history to need repetition here. Suffice to say that the roster of their engagements include those of Chickasaw Bayou, the Siege of Vicksburg, which cost them many lives and inconceivable sacrifices, the pursuit of Joe Johnston; the juncture with Grant at Chattanooga, a journey fraught with continual peril and incessant

fighting, and which brought them under orders of General Osterhaus' Division, a portion of General Hooker's command.

At the Battle of Ringgold Gap, Mr. Beardsley's left arm and legs were shattered; but he refused to leave his post until firing had ceased, and for his heroism on that occasion he was commissioned Major. After his recovery, he returned to the firing line in the Fifteenth Army Corps, and became Assistant Adjutant-General to General Osterhaus. There he remained until 1865, when he was mustered out, and the title of Colonel conferred upon him.

Major Beardsley was elected County Clerk; was re-elected in 1869, and in 1873 began the practice of law. He served as Attorney-General in Illinois; was a practitioner before the United States Supreme Court; was one of the thirty-six men who were sent to New Orleans to represent the Republican party in the electoral college tangle. Among that number, known to history as the "visiting statesmen," were John Sherman, James A. Garfield, and Judge Stanley Matthews of Ohio; M. S. Quay and W. D. Kelly of Pennsylvania; Lew Wallace and William Cumback of Indiana, and John A. Kasson of Iowa. To Major Beardsley and Judge Matthews was assigned the task of ascertaining fraud in the Louisiana election. He brought to pass the abrogation of the unit rule in Republican national conventions, thus defeating Grant for a third term; he served as Postmaster of Rock Island under President Hayes; in the 80's he secured from the Texas Legislature the concession of 3,000,000 acres of land in exchange for a \$1,500,000 State House; he was indefatigable in his efforts to further the development of the Arsenal and the building of the Hennepin Canal; he was a zealous worker in the Grand Army of the Republic and other societies, and was a gentleman of culture, polish and tact.

In the brief space herein allotted, no comprehensive picture of Major Beardsley can be

drawn. His life was so active, so unlike any other; so hardened with incidents, any of which would require weeks to elucidate; so laden with responsibility and importance, so earnest, so marked by generosity and geniality, that it must suffice to merely add that he was a great man without realizing it; he was great because he could not help it *Stat magni nominis umbra.*

October 20, 1862, Mr. Beardsley married Laurany C. E. Conet, a daughter of Joseph Conet, a pioneer of this county. The children of this union were Wyman I. Beardsley of Rock Island; Mrs. Harry G. Brooks, and Miss Amanda Beardsley. A brother and a sister of the late Major also survive—Ezra Beardsley, of Pasadena, California; and Mrs. Philora Stephens, of Meadville, Pennsylvania.

#### COL. EZRA M. BEARDSLEY.

PERHAPS throughout Rock Island County there is no name so often recalled or regarded among old settlers as that of Colonel Ezra M. Beardsley, unless it be those of the late Major James M. Beardsley, or the former's brother, James M. Beardsley. The life of Ezra was one of incessant activity and brilliant success, and up to the time of his death and since he was highly esteemed as an exemplary citizen, a patriot of the most courageous and pronounced character, and a man whom all were delighted to call friend. Strong as iron, he was a child; gentle as a baby, he was an untamed lion when the question of right was in jeopardy.

Ezra Beardsley was born October 14, 1827, at Ashland, Green County, New York, his parents being Elisha and Caroline (M. Marvin) Beardsley. He traced his progenitors back to the early portion of the Seventeenth Century, many of them having served in the Army and Navy during the various uprisings and wars which have made history for this nation. He came to Illinois in 1844, and until 1870, when he removed to Kansas, had

been a resident of Rock Island County. In 1855 he was elected Sheriff; was admitted to the bar in 1859, after a thorough course in law; enlisted in the "three months' service," and was commissioned Lieutenant in the Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteers. He was promoted to the rank of Post-Adjutant at Camp Douglas, then a military prison near Chicago. His humane efforts in behalf of the unfortunate prisoners of war at that time would of themselves furnish material for a large volume. After his term of three months in the Army, Mr. Beardsley returned to Rock Island and re-enlisted. He became a recruiting officer; he organized six companies of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, and was elected Lieutenant-Colonel of that Regiment, serving in the famous Army of the Tennessee. Later he was transferred to Arkansas, where he was made Post Commander at Devall's Bluff, a strategical point on the Arkansas River.

In the spring of 1870 Colonel Beardsley went to Parker, Kansas, where, for a time, he pursued his chosen profession, and, as a diversion, invested in a sheep ranch. Several years afterwards he removed to Lake City, Barber County, Kansas, where he died, 1885.

February 8, 1848, Mr. Beardsley married Sarah Lemon, of Millersburg, Illinois. Their children were Mary C., Seth Marvin (deceased) Ezra Irving, now in Pueblo, Colorado, and William Lincoln, now in Oklahoma, and Albert L., at Fort Madison, Iowa.

As to the personal attributes of Mr. Beardsley, his war record, his reputation and standing as a barrister, citizen, and a parent, feeble words are inadequate to depict. As a soldier his long career was embellished with inspiring deeds and kindnesses, his courage was miraculous in its recklessness, and his patriotism was undimmed in the darkest hours of the nation's peril.

His children now reside in several States, and his friends in many more; yet there is never a recurring thought of Colonel Ezra

M. Beardsley which does not bring with it a felicitous thought and a moment of contemplation that is good to feel. Surely Rock Island County has furnished the State and the nation with many brave and noble men, and among the front rank the name of Colonel Ezra Beardsley will always be conspicuous.

### JAMES M. BEARDSLEY.

THE above named widely known soldier-citizen is a brother to Colonel Ezra, and Lieutenant Elisha I. Beardsley, the latter of whom was killed in action, December 29, 1862, at Chickasaw Bayou, during the assault under General Sherman. Mr. Beardsley, who is also a cousin of the late Major James M. Beardsley, and descended from a family who settled in America along with the Puritans in 1628, and whose relatives served in the Army and Navy in various capacities for nearly three centuries, was born near Aledo, Mercer County, Illinois, June 23, 1843. When he was still in his swaddling raiment, his parents settled in Rock Island County, where he has since resided, being at the present time a member of the firm of Beardsley & Bailey Company, wholesale liquor dealers.

In 1862, Mr. Beardsley enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Second Regiment, Illinois Infantry, and with his Company was at once sent to the front, going to Gallatin, Tennessee, where Company C became a part of Sherman's Army. He was in all engagements which have made Sherman and his men famous forever, and was in the assault upon the Rebel battery at Resaca, Georgia, which was successfully accomplished by a deadly, though brilliant bayonet charge, and through which he emerged with two serious wounds and numerous narrow escapes; he was one of the foragers which operated from Atlanta to the sea, including the battle of Savannah, and the battles which took place on the route through the Carolinas. At the

battle of Avensboro, North Carolina, he was captured and sent to Libby Prison, at Richmond, Virginia, that place of confinement so lamentably famed for the carelessness and brutality of its administration—and was there held as a prisoner of war until the war was over, when he was mustered out as a prisoner of war at Chicago, June 15, 1865.

The most notable of the numerous engagements in which Mr. Beardsley participated were the battle of Resaca, when his regiment stormed a battery at the point of the bayonet, and at Atlanta, when but 280 men remained to answer roll call out of a total of 921, who had enlisted a year before.

During the attack at Resaca, which occurred May 15, 1864, at which time the Rebel battery was captured and four guns representing the prize. General Benjamin Harrison was in general command; W. T. Ward, whose division was known as "Ward's Iron Brigade," of which Mr. Beardsley was one, was Division Commander, and "Fighting Joe Hooker" was Corps Commander.

In civil life, Mr. Beardsley has also been exceptionally prominent. From 1865 to 1875 he was a manufacturer of brooms; from 1875 to 1885 was in the Internal Revenue Service, as gauger and deputy collector; was a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866; a charter member of Island City Lodge, No. 4, Ancient Order of United Workmen; a charter member of St. Paul Lodge, No. 107, Knights of Pythias; a master Mason since 1871, organizations to which he still belongs, and of which he is an esteemed and active member.

June 27, 1865, Mr. Beardsley was wed to Hannah Hally Beardsley. The surviving children of this union are: Henry Marvin, now a leading business man in Boulder, Colorado; Laura C., now Mrs. Arthur McNeill, of Rock Island, and C. Lynde Beardsley, a young man who gives promise of the same useful and commendable life observed by his father.

The friends of Mr. Beardsley are legion and of the substantial and esteemed class. His record as a civilian and citizen is of the same high tone as his record as a soldier and officer in the Army. In fact, as a friend, man and father, he is par excellent.



#### DE WITT CLINTON DIMOCK.

THIS pioneer Moline business man and sterling citizen was born October 1, 1820, at Wellington, Connecticut. He came west and located at Geneseo, Illinois, in 1840, taking up his residence in Moline in 1843. His activities as a manufacturer began in 1852 when he formed a partnership with Judge John M. Gould for the making of furniture and wooden ware. On the incorporation of the firm of Dimock, Gould & Company, in 1869, he was elected its president. This position he held till 1884, when he retired from the head of the concern, retaining his connection through the office of treasurer. Mr. Dimock was also interested in a number of other successful enterprises, among which may be mentioned the First National Bank of Moline. He was one of the original stockholders of this institution and long served as a member of the board of directors.

Mr. Dimock married June 17, 1843, Miss Maria H. Hubbard, daughter of Rufus Hubbard. She was born in Bergen, Genesee County, New York. Two daughters were the issue of their union. The older, Nellie E., died when but two years of age. Florence, the younger, is the wife of E. H. Sleight, to whom she was married in 1880.

Mr. Dimock was one of the founders of the First Congregational Church of Moline, and he and his wife are members of and liberal contributors to the support of the same. Mr. Dimock has been a strong Republican ever since that party was organized, and during the war was a staunch Union man.

He died May 23, 1906.

#### COLONEL CHARLES L. WALKER.

COL. CHARLES LEANDER WALKER, a member of one of the leading law firms of Rock Island County for more than a quarter of a century, is a native son of Illinois. He was born at Queen Ann, McHenry County, Illinois, December 27, 1851. He is a son of Reverend Leander Smith Walker and Miriam Lavilla Walker. His father was a Methodist minister and a leader in the Rock River conference. He was for a period of years stationed at Rockford, Winnebago County. From 1865 to 1870 he was financial agent for the Rock River Seminary and Collegiate Institute, located at Mt. Morris, in Ogle County.

The son graduated from the Rock River Seminary and Collegiate Institute in 1869, taking a classical course. For several years after leaving school his activities were varied. He taught school, worked on the farm and at railroad construction. Among the places where he lived at various times are Durand, Marengo, Rockford, Mt. Morris, Prophetstown, Tampico, Garden Plain and Clarendon Hills.

Mr. Walker removed to Rock Island in May, 1873, and the following year took up the study of law in the office of Sweeney & Jackson, supporting himself at the same time. He was admitted to the bar at Springfield January 4, 1878, and at once became a member of the firm with which he had been connected, the name being changed to Sweeney, Jackson & Walker. The older members were E. D. Sweeney, with whom Mr. Walker is at present associated under the name of Sweeney & Walker, and Honorable William Jackson, now head of the firm of Jackson, Hurst & Stafford.

Mr. Walker's advancement in the community was rapid. At an early date he became recognized as one of the best posted men in his profession in the northwestern part of Illinois, and his acumen and forensic



ability won him instant success before the bar. Always an ardent Republican, he rose to a commanding position in the councils of the party and was entrusted with positions of honor and responsibility. He was appointed aide on the staff of Governor Richard Yates with the rank of Colonel January 28, 1901. He has been attorney for the Illinois and Michigan canal from April, 1900, to the present time. He was president of the Rock Island public library board from 1893 to 1907, and it was under his administration that the beautiful \$65,000 library building was erected.

Mr. Walker early in life accepted Methodism as his faith, and in Rock Island became a member of the First Church. Fraternally he is a Mason of high degree, being a member of Trio Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Barrett Chapter, and Rock Island Commandery.

Mr. Walker was married April 13, 1881, to Anna Guy Stoddard, of Rock Island.

### JOHN KIMBERLAND SCOTT.

THE subject of this sketch, the present States Attorney of Rock Island County, was born in Muscatine, Iowa, on November 26, 1870. His parents were William W. Scott, now deceased, and Margaret (Hickey) Scott, the former of sturdy Scotch, and the later of keen, energetic Irish ancestry. Mr. Scott's father served three years during the Civil War as a member of Company M, Eighth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and was for almost forty years a locomotive engineer on the Rock Island Railway, and for one term an alderman from the Seventh Ward of Rock Island.

John K. Scott came to Rock Island County with his parents in 1875, having lived the first few years of his life in Muscatine and later in Brooklyn, Iowa. He attended the public schools of the City of Rock Island and graduated from the high school in the Class

of '89, being president of his class. He then entered the Rock Island postoffice, where he was employed as a letter carrier until September, 1893, when, having saved enough money to realize his cherished ambition, he resigned his position and entered the law department of the State University of Iowa. He graduated from that institution in 1895, as president of the law class of that year.

Mr. Scott was for two years professionally associated with C. J. Searle, and in 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley United States Consul at La Chaux De Fonds, in Switzerland, resigning that position after one year of service to re-enter the practice of the law in Rock Island. He was elected City Attorney of Rock Island in 1899, and was re-elected in 1901 and 1903. In November, 1904, he was elected States Attorney of Rock Island County by a majority of 3,602.

Mr. Scott was married on June 3, 1906, to Amy Louise Huey, of Moline, a lady whose pleasing personality, tact and grace have been a great assistance to her husband in his successful career. He is a member in good standing in Rock Island Commandery, Knight of Templar; Rock Island Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Trio Lodge, No. 57, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; Kaaba Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; Rock Island Lodge, No. 980, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; C. W. Hawes Camp, No. 1550, Modern Woodmen of America; Rock Island Aerie, No. 956, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Sons of Veterans.

Politically Mr. Scott has always been a Republican, the type of Republicanism that came from a father who cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, while a soldier at the front. As a lawyer Mr. Scott is well qualified both by nature and education to maintain a high place in his profession. As a public official, he is efficient, courteous and kindly, ever ready to lend an attentive ear to the unfortunate and sinned against.

Mr. Scott's best friends are those who know him best in his professional as well as in his happy home life. Such an official deserves, and will retain, the confidence of the people.



### JULIUS JUNGE.

THERE are few business men in Rock Island or Moline who do not enjoy a personal acquaintance with the genial Julius Junge, vice-president of the Rock Island Brewing Company, a man who, though deeply engrossed in the concerns of a large and growing industry, has found time to cultivate his social nature and to enjoy the pleasures of companionship with his fellow men.

He was born in Prussia, March 23, 1848, being a son of Joseph and Johanna (Herschel) Junge. His father served for some years as a soldier in the Prussian Army, but being a man desirous of seeking larger opportunities for himself and his children, in 1854, when his son, Julius, was six years of age, he, with his family, emigrated to America and located on a farm near Fort Madison, Iowa. Here the father cultivated a vineyard. There were seven children in this family, and of these Julius was the youngest. The elder Junge after coming to America spent his entire life upon his Iowa farm, passing away at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. His beloved wife survived him six years, and then at the age of seventy-nine she joined her husband in death.

Their son, Julius, obtained his education in the schools of Burlington, Iowa, and after completing his schooling he located in the town of Jollyville, Iowa. Here he conducted a general store, and was also postmaster of Jollyville for three years.

He came to Rock Island in 1871, and for the first eight years of his residence in this city he was employed as bookkeeper by a mercantile firm. Then he established a

bottling establishment which he conducted for one year. In 1893 he acquired stock in the Brewing Company formed by the amalgamation of the various brewing establishments in Rock Island, and was elected to the offices of vice-president and general superintendent, which offices he still holds, the Rock Island Brewing Company feeling indebted in no small degree for the success they have achieved to his boundless vigor and untiring energy.

Mr. Junge was married September 3, 1878, to Miss Amelia M. Frice, a young lady of Leland, Illinois. Three daughters were born of this marriage, the Misses Olga, Frieda and Lillie, charming and talented young ladies who have been given every advantage by their parents, and who are prominent in the social life of the Tri-Cities.

Some years ago Mr. Junge was largely interested as a breeder and owner of blooded pacing stock, and during this time he was the owner of two of the noted pacers of that time—Bulmont, with a record of 2:09  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and Seal, whose record was 2:08  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Mr. Junge, however, sold both of these horses at a large profit, and since that time has not taken an active interest in racing stock.

He is an enthusiastic sportsman, and is a hunter and nimrod of no small ability. He belonged to the Marlin Rifle Club and later to the Rock Island Gun Club, and in these organizations he has always been a successful participant in the "shoots" that have been held. He is also an enthusiastic bowler and enjoys every form of clean, wholesome sport that calls into play both mind and muscle.

In affairs politically Mr. Junge maintains a strictly independent attitude, and cannot be said to belong to any of the old parties.

He is interested in several business enterprises, both in Rock Island and Moline, and in Davenport as well, and is a stockholder in the Peoples National Bank of Rock Island. Scrupulously honest in every business transaction, he commands the admiration and

respect of his many friends, by whom he is considered a most delightful companion, and in whose circle he is always a welcome addition to a happy, social hour.

### EDWARD CORYN.

**A**NATIVE of Belgium, born at Lootenhutle, East Flanders, November 2, 1857.

Edward Coryn is the second son of Leonard Coryn and Johanna Catherine Schotteman. In the year 1880 the family immigrated to the United States, settling in Moline, Illinois, where in 1890, the father died. The mother, now ninety years of age, still survives, one of the most aged women of Rock Island County. Edward Coryn was given excellent educational advantages and acquired both the Flemish and French languages at school, and since coming to America he has, of course, added the English language to his accomplishments. In the interval between his leaving school and his departure for America, young Edward assisted his father on the farm.

During his first few years in Moline he worked in a sawmill and in a private family. In the year 1892 he formed a co-partnership with Mr. Charles A. Rank in the retail grocery business, which was continued prosperously until April of the present year, 1896, when the company sold out its stock to two of its faithful employees, who, since have constituted the firm of Courtney & DeTaye.

Mr. Coryn is a stockholder and director of the Moline State Savings Bank and the Moline Incandescent Lamp Company, of which latter he is also secretary and treasurer; he is a Democrat, though independent in local politics, in which he has been active since his naturalization, five years after his arrival, under the American flag.

In the year 1896 he was elected alderman of his, the Sixth Ward, of Moline, and held that honorable office for eight successive years. In this connection he served on many

important committees, and was for two years chairman of the committee on Streets and Alleys.

Shortly after the expiration of this long period of public service he was appointed by Mayor Skinner as a member of the Public Library Board, of the Executive Committee of which he is now chairman. Mr. Coryn is a public spirited citizen of his adopted country and interests himself deeply in the matter of instructing the new arrivals from his fatherland in their duties and responsibilities as American citizens, a most creditable work of sincere and genuine patriotism and a worthy example to others. Appropos of this he organized, in 1890, the Belgian Working Men's Union, embracing the plan of sickness benefit; the Union now has a membership of more than three hundred and a fund of two thousand dollars in the treasury.

Mr. Coryn is now, and has been from the first, president of the Society. For the purpose of promoting education among his countrymen he, two years ago, organized the Belgian Club, of which he has been president from the start. This important Association numbers one hundred and sixty members. Its rooms are above the Moline State Savings Bank and are provided with a good library and with various accessories for convenience and amusement.

Mr. Coryn is a member of the Knights of Columbus, in which he is now Grand Knight of Leo Council, No. 716, Moline, Illinois. In the year 1898 he paid a visit to the old home state in Belgium, meeting incidentally Miss Marie Cecelia DeVoghelaere, daughter of his former school teacher. Two years later, namely in 1900, he again visited Belgium, and on the 8th of November of that year was joined in marriage to that lady and set out on a wedding trip to their home in the Western world, and their friends may now find them in their home on Oak Hill, Moline.

At the age of fourteen years Mr. Coryn was confirmed by the Bishop of Ghent in the

Holy Catholic Church, in which faith both he and Mrs. Coryn now live.



### JUDSON D. METZGAR

ONE of Moline's younger attorneys, who has achieved success in his profession, and who has acquired a lucrative office and probate practice, is Judson D. Metzgar.

He was born at Port Byron, Illinois, December 5, 1870, and here his parents, Marcellus R. and Mary E. (Brown) Metzgar, resided until he was ten years of age, when they removed to Davenport, Iowa, where they remained three years, going from thence to Moline, which has since been his home.

His early education was obtained in the common schools of Port Byron, the Moline High School of which he is a graduate, as well as of the Port Byron Academy which he attended later. His professional education was obtained in the Denver Law School. Upon finishing at this latter institution he was admitted to the Bar of Rock Island County in 1894 and to the United States District Court in 1899.

On January 28, 1895, Mr. Metzgar was married in San Bernardino, California, to Miss Alice S. Peterson. Two children were born to them, Mary Alice, aged seven, and Wallace Judson, aged four. He was bereaved by the death of his wife at Phoenix, Arizona, January 2, 1904, where she had gone in an effort to recuperate her failing health.

Mr. Metzgar's church affiliation is with the First Baptist Church of Moline. He is also a member of the Young Men's Christian Association of that City. He is a member of the Redmen, the Moline Club, the Highland Gun Club and the Moline Retail Merchants' Association.

Mr. Metzgar has never been a political aspirant, the only office he ever held being an appointive one by the Mayor of Moline as Director of Riverside Cemetery of that City, an office he held for seven years.

While this sketch of Mr. Metzgar is brief, his life itself is a full and busy one, and he is held in high esteem by those who know him.



### EDGAR H. WILSON.

BORN at Depauville, Jefferson County, New York, January 28, 1874, Edgar H. Wilson came to Moline, Illinois, with his parents, George T. and Mary E. Wilson, in the year 1892. He was educated in Lowville Academy, Lowville, New York. Leaving school at the age of seventeen he entered the service of Grant & Mould, grocers, at Watertown, New York, with whom he remained for three years when the family moved west.

Arriving at Moline, Mr. Wilson was employed as clerk in the grocery store of George L. Benson at 1620 Third Avenue; at the expiration of three years he purchased the stock and fixtures of Mr. Benson and conducted the business on his own hook until September, 1902, when he, in company with C. W. Wright, organized the Wright Carriage Body Company and built that well known plant with Mr. Wright as Manager and Mr. Wilson as Secretary and Treasurer. Since Mr. Wright's retirement from the concern in 1904 Mr. Wilson has been in sole charge of factory and office.

In the year 1898, on Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Wilson was joined in marriage to Miss Emma Wright, daughter of C. W. Wright, of the above Company. In politics Mr. Wilson is a Republican; he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he officiates as organist; he is also a member of the Young Men's Christian Association, and of the Dorie Lodge, No. 319, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.



### ALMON A. BUFFUM.

THE evolution of Rock Island County from an untamed wilderness into a populous, highly improved and well ordered community has occupied but a brief

span of years. There are those now living who were here in time to aid in the beginning of the struggle against the forces of nature. And yet there has been time for families to grow up, children and grandchildren, and even great grandchildren to be born, reared and scatter west, north and south to people other lands. Such has been the history of the descendants of Jonathan Buffum, a pioneer of the thirties. He came to Stephenson, as Rock Island was known then, from the east, in 1835, at a time when there were but a few straggling houses here. He established the first hotel, or rather tavern, in the settlement and at this place, so family tradition runs, dinner was provided for the gang of men who built the first house erected on the site of Davenport.

Jonathan Buffum was the father of a large family and there are today many descendants scattered throughout the country. Almon Atwood Buffum is one of the few who still live in the county. He is a son of Seth R. and Henrietta (Atwood) Buffum. His father was born in Ohio and came to Illinois in 1826. His mother was a native of Vermont, taking up her residence in Illinois in 1847. The son was born in Knox County, Illinois, August 26, 1849, and the greater part of his early life was spent in Andausia, where he obtained a common school education. January 1, 1873, he married Amanda Weaver, who died in 1902. Four children were the result of the union, Este E., Bertha, wife of Lorenzo Chambers; Ruth, and Paul. Mr. Buffum settled on a farm in Black Hawk soon after his marriage and has engaged in agricultural pursuits ever since. He is a spiritualist and is independent in politics.

#### PRESLEY GREENAWALT.

**P**RESLEY GREENAWALT, cashier of the Rock Island Savings Bank, was born May 31, 1858, at Wyoming, Stark County, Illinois, the son of Henry Andrew and Maria

Calwell Greenawalt. In the public schools of Wyoming he obtained his education, leaving his studies at the age of fourteen to enter the printing office of the *Wyoming Post*. In 1882 he removed to Rock Island and secured a position as bill clerk with the Rock Island & Peoria Railroad. After a few months he was made cashier in the local freight office, from which position he was successively promoted to agent at Toulon, agent at Rock Island, and finally to cashier and paymaster for the road. In 1892 he resigned to enter the shoe business in Rock Island. At the end of a year he disposed of his store and took charge of the books of the Rock Island Savings Bank. He was made cashier in 1895, and still holds that position.

Mr. Greenawalt has given much attention to fraternal work. He is a member of Trio Lodge, No. 57, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and served as master during the year 1899. He is connected with the Odd Fellows and filled the office of noble grand one term. In the National Union he held the office of secretary for a number of years and is now treasurer. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Globe and Bankers' Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Greenawalt was married June 17, 1885, to Miss Marguerite Elizabeth Laux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Val. Laux, of Davenport, Iowa.



#### MARTIN SCHOONMAKER.

**M**UCH has been written in this historical work of the banks and bankers of Rock Island and Moline. However, in estimating the financial strength of Rock Island County the banks and bankers of its smaller municipalities are deserving of very prominent mention, for they are the tributaries of larger financial institutions and have an important part in swelling the stream of the county's prosperity. To the village bank comes the





P. GREENAWALT



farmer from the surrounding countryside and deposits the golden fruits of his toil. From the proprietor of that bank its customers may ask and receive sound financial advice. He is their friend and adviser as well as their banker. The farm loan, that solid rock of financial investment, is placed with him, or is negotiated through some larger banking institution through his agency. Upon the stability and security of these smaller banks, as well as upon the honor and integrity of those in control of them, rests the whole superstructure of the confidence and trust reposed in them.

With these thoughts in mind we are now to consider the life and character of Martin Schoonmaker, the banker at the Village of Reynolds in this county, one of Rock Island County's most influential citizens. He was born October 21, 1834, in Green County, New York, his parents being Christian and Sylvia Schoonmaker. Both Mr. Schoonmaker's parents were natives of this country. His paternal grandfather came to America from Germany at a very early date. Martin Schoonmaker received such education as was afforded at that early time in the common schools of his native county, receiving sound instruction in the common branches of learning.

About April 16, 1856, Mr. Schoonmaker left New York State and came to Illinois, locating at once in Rock Island. Financially he was in sore straits, without either employment or friends. Upon coming to Rock Island he stopped for two or three days with Mr. C. H. Stoddard, a man very prominent in Rock Island County before his death. Mr. Stoddard informed the young man that there was plenty of employment to be obtained at or near the village of Edgington, which was just opening up as a farming community. Meeting Mr. Daniel Edgington, after whom the village was named, upon the streets of Rock Island, arrangements were made with him to take the young stranger down into

the lower end of the county. He accompanied Mr. Edgington to his farm, and after remaining there for a day or two found employment with Mr. Mathias Agy, a neighboring farmer, to whom he hired out at a salary of sixteen dollars a month. The employment only continued for two months, when our young adventurer was again seeking work. He found employment very speedily at the store of a Mr. Burrall, and here he received seventy-five cents a day for his toil. Afterward Mr. Schoonmaker owned this store, but as he himself says, it was in those early days of his struggle beyond the wildest dreams of his ambition. After he left the employ of Mr. Burrall the young man went to work for a Doctor Tyler, who owned a large farm in the lower end of the county. Here he was engaged in the laborious occupation of mowing hay with a scythe, this being long before the era of the mowing machine and the hay-loader. For this work he was to receive seventy-five cents per acre. Again, as Mr. Schoonmaker himself says, at that time he would have prophesied that he would own such a farm as that little short of insane, yet in due course of time, this very farm upon which he had toiled for Dr. Tyler, came into his possession.

After some years of farming Mr. Schoonmaker entered the agricultural implement business at Edgington. From that he branched out into the general mercantile business. Then he entered the livery business at Muscatine, Iowa, later returning to the mercantile business at Edgington, and later at Reynolds. Then he entered the grain business, and this he followed for twenty-one years. In the meantime Mr. Schoonmaker started the Reynolds bank, the first bank ever in that village. At first this was operated as a private banking institution, and it continued to be so operated for about ten years. At the expiration of that time Mr. Schoonmaker sold out his business

interests, including the bank and the grain business, his intention being to retire upon the competence that he had acquired through his industry and sagacity, and to enjoy a well earned rest from the cares of business life. This he did for a time, and being opportunely by some of the Reynolds citizens to open a State bank, he yielded to their requests, and proceeded to complete the organization of the State bank. Subscription for the bank stock was very soon completed, and at the first meeting of the stockholders of the new institution Mr. Schoonmaker was unanimously elected the bank's first president. This office he has held ever since.

Mr. Schoonmaker, during his long business career at Reynolds, has been one of that village's most public spirited citizens. To him probably more than to any other single individual is due the credit of building up the village. He always had a firm faith in its future, and never hesitated to put his money into building enterprises. He has had built eleven dwelling houses, a large grain elevator and a bank building, a business block and office building.

In political faith Mr. Schoonmaker was, in his early years, a staunch Democrat, but differing with the majority of his party on some of the issues it advocated, he left its ranks and has ever since voted the Republican ticket. Mr. Schoonmaker has held several public offices in Rock Island County, and although they were in fact minor offices, and somewhat local in their nature, they serve to demonstrate the esteem and regard in which he was held by his neighbors. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors for eight years and chairman of the Board committee at the time of the building of the new court house in this county. The bonds voted for this enterprise were \$125,000, which issue, through Mr. Schoonmaker's agency, were sold for \$130,000 to H. N. Harris & Company, of Chicago, a very advantageous

financial operation for Rock Island County. February 12, 1860, Mr. Schoonmaker was married to Miss Elizabeth Bouttinghouse, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bouttinghouse, Sr. He was bereaved by the death of his wife July 6, 1870, after ten years of happy married life. On February 29, 1876, Mr. Schoonmaker married Miss Jennie C. Smith. Five children were born of this second marriage, three of whom are living; Elizabeth, Laura and Martin Fay. The daughter, Elizabeth, is now the wife of T. I. Ash.

In bringing to a close this biographical sketch it seems that no words of flattery are necessary to gloss over Mr. Schoonmaker's long and honorable career. He has spent a long and useful lifetime in Rock Island County. He is so well known that his life and character speak for themselves. Coming to this county at an early day he found natural opportunities which he improved, and he is now enjoying the natural and well-merited reward of his foresight.



#### ROBERT WARD OLMSTED.

A GOOD mental and physical equipment, unflagging energy, and temperate habits have been leading factors in the elevation of Robert Ward Olmsted, from a poor boy, dependent upon his own resources, to the honored position of judge of Rock Island County. Born on a farm in Edgington Township, Rock Island County, Illinois, May 6, 1868, he became almost, if not quite, self-supporting at the tender age of thirteen, and though employed early and late for the greater part of each succeeding year of his youth, he cultivated studious habits, and by close application to his books, both in and out of school, and by strict economy, he secured an education. Having done this, his advancement was rapid.

Our subject is the son of Robert B. and Mary M. (Linn) Olmsted. The father was born April 13, 1832, at Havensport, Fairfield

County, Ohio. He was left an orphan at an early age and grew to manhood in Defiance County, Ohio. He came to Knox County, Illinois, in 1856, and to Rock Island County in 1860. He was successively school teacher, farmer, merchant, postmaster of Milan, Illinois, insurance agent and for the last twelve years has been deputy sheriff and bailiff of the circuit and county courts.

The foundation of the Olmsted family in America was laid by three brothers of English Puritan stock, who removed to this continent in the seventeenth century, one of the brothers being a pioneer settler of Hartford, Connecticut. The mother of our subject was born March 22, 1844, near Viola, Mercer County, Illinois, her parents, who were of Scotch-Irish descent, coming to Illinois from Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

The son at the age of thirteen began work as cutter here in a paper mill at Milan, being employed twelve hours a day and earning at first but \$4.50 per week. During the next three succeeding summers he was employed in another paper mill, on a farm and in a drug store. Then he was assistant postmaster at Milan and at Reynolds, Illinois, for two years; at the age of eighteen, taking up school teaching near Milan. In February, 1887, he entered the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanics Arts at Ames, and after four years graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science. While in college he earned practically all the money required to carry him through. In 1890-91 he was teacher in the Northern Iowa Normal School at Algona, and the following year he was principal of the public schools in Milan. Then for three years he was superintendent of schools of Orange City, county seat of Sioux County, Iowa. Prior to this, in 1891-92, he studied law with Jackson & Hurst in Rock Island, and while at Orange City he completed his course under L. D. Hobson, an attorney of that place. In 1895 he passed the examination and January 16 was admitted

to the bar of Iowa. After practicing four years at Orange City he was elected county attorney, and served till shortly before his removal to Rock Island in May, 1899. From 1900 to 1904 he was assistant state's attorney of Rock Island County. In the spring of 1907 he received the nomination for County Judge at the hands of the Republican party, to fill the unexpired term of Judge E. E. Parmenter, deceased. His election by a handsome majority followed.

While attending Iowa Agricultural College Mr. Olmsted was a cadet, obtaining some military experience. He at one time took first prize in a competitive drill in which his Company participated. During his term of service he rose to the rank of Captain, being by virtue of his commission, a member of the Iowa National Guard. Mr. Olmsted is a Presbyterian, a member of the Broadway Church of Rock Island. In politics he has always allied himself with the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member of the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Olmsted married August 25, 1892, Jennie E. Fahnestock, of Lewiston, Illinois. To them four children have been born: Margaret, February 7, 1894; Elizabeth, June 11, 1898; Robert Ernst, December 2, 1899, and Jeanette, October 20, 1903.



#### HONORABLE WILLIAM PAYNE.

FARMERS who have been elected to positions of trust and honor are not by any means few in America, but it is the exception that the tiller of the soil continues to be such long after he has won success in any sphere outside his regular calling. The allurements of city life in the great majority of cases quickly overcome the inborn love of nature unadorned and the farmer is known by another name.

Honorable William Payne has been one of the few. After terms of service in county offices and through twelve years in which he



held membership in the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate he remained a farmer. His broad acres in Zuma Township, Rock Island County, he still called home, and there he continued to reside and plant and cultivate and reap and raise live stock till he felt it time to retire from active business and from office. Then he exchanged his farm for city property and became a resident of Rock Island.

Mr. Payne was born March 8, 1841, at what is now known as Pleasant Valley, Scott County, Iowa, his parents being Jeremiah and Letitia (Orr) Payne. They located in Scott County in 1837, the father being a native of New York State, and the mother a native of Ohio. The son received his education in the public schools near his home, and in the Winters of 1859, 1860 attended school at Quincy College, and in 1860 taught school in Posey County, Indiana, and Adams County, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, serving in Company D during the greater part of the four years he spent in the army. After the war he found employment in mercantile establishments and on the farm, till 1875, when he purchased the stock farm in Zuma Township on which he continued to reside for twenty-five years. In 1901 he rented the farm and has since given his attention to other affairs, spending four years in the South.

Mr. Payne's career as a public officer began soon after the war. In the sixties he served one term as deputy county treasurer and two terms as deputy sheriff. In the early seventies he was elected sheriff, and filled that responsible office for two terms. In 1890 he was elected a member of the lower Illinois House, and so well were his constituents pleased with his work that they sent him back at the end of his first term for another six years, making eight consecutive years. Then they placed him in the Senate, where he held a seat for four consecutive

years, retiring in 1902. Among other positions of trust Mr. Payne filled was that of president of the Rock Island Agricultural Association, in which capacity he continued several years.

In Masonry the subject of this sketch stands high, having attained the thirty-second degree. He holds membership in Rock Island Lodge, No. 658, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Rock Island Chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons; Rock Island Commandery, No. 18, Knights Templar; the Oriental Consistory of Chicago, and Kaaba Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Davenport, Iowa. In addition he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Payne was married October 26, 1870, to Miss Jennie Wilson, daughter of Major F. Wilson and Asenath (North) Wilson, both old settlers of Rock Island County. Four children born of this union: Frank, farmer and stock raiser of Zuma, married Miss Clara Frels in November, 1901. They have one son, Wilson Payne, born in 1894. Ben, of Rock Island, is single, and has all the Masonic degrees his father has. Lucy, was married in January, 1899, to Honorable Marton Bailey, of Danville, Illinois, and they have two children, Joe Cannon Marton, born in 1900, and Helen, born in 1894. Miss Mabel Payne the youngest of the family, resides at home.



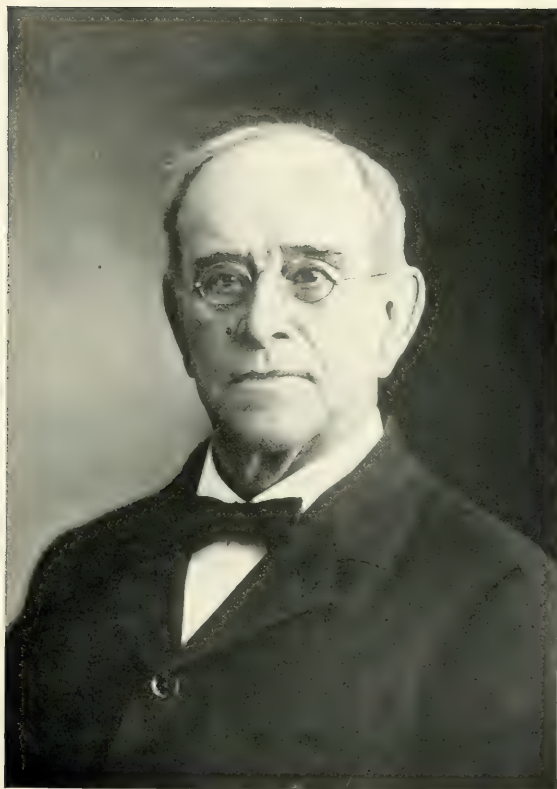
#### REVEREND GEORGE W. GUE.

**A**MAN who, while never a permanent resident of Rock Island, yet lived in the city long enough to leave a permanent impress there and to be remembered with gratitude by many, was Reverend George W. Gue, for several years pastor of the First Methodist Church, and builder of the present house of worship of that congregation. Honored in various ways by his church he bore his preferment well and earned the love and respect everywhere of those with whom he came in contact.



REV. GUE





D. M. SECHLER





Mr. Gue was born in Neville, Clermont County, Ohio, February 27, 1840, and died at Portland, Oregon, July 24, 1901. When ten years of age, his parents removed to Princeville, Peoria County, Illinois. At the age of nine years he had completed an academic education and was admitted to the Central Illinois Conference, being at the time the youngest member of that organization. As the years passed he was assigned to the most important posts in the conference and served also as presiding elder. In 1862 he enlisted as a private in the Union army, being soon promoted to Chaplain of the One Hundred and Eighth Illinois Regiment. In later years he often proudly mentioned the fact that he was the youngest Chaplain in the Army. Serving throughout the war, Mr. Gue returned with his Regiment to Peoria in 1865, and was there mustered out. Afterward he became prominent in Grand Army circles in the State, serving one term as department Chaplain. He also published a book entitled "Our Country's Flag."

Mr. Gue was for a number of years presiding elder of the Kankakee district. He was transferred to the Oregon conference in 1891, and took charge of Grace Church at Portland. After three years service he was chosen presiding elder and served the full term, afterward resuming his duties as pastor with the Centenary Church at Portland. It was while waiting at the depot to meet returning Epworth League delegates, who had been at a meeting at San Francisco, that heart failure overcame him and he died. Mr. Gue was a delegate to three general conferences of the American Methodist Church, those of 1880, 1888 and 1898, and was elected a delegate to the Ecumenical Council of the church which met in London, England, in the September following his death.

Mr. Gue was married to Anna B. Roberts, of Peoria, Illinois, in 1864, and his wife, three sons and one daughter survive.

### DANIEL M. SECHLER.

DANIEL M. SECHLER, founder of the D. M. Sechler Carriage Company, of Moline, Illinois, was born March 4, 1818, at Danville, Pennsylvania, and died at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 27, 1903.

Mr. Sechler's forefathers, in the days of the persecution of John Huss, were obliged to flee for refuge from Austria, taking up their abode in Holland, from which country, in 1685, Mr. Sechler's great great grandfather emigrated to America, locating near William Penn's town of Philadelphia. His grandson, John Sechler, a revolutionary soldier, founded the town of Danville, the birthplace not only of the subject of this sketch, but also of his father, Rudolph Sechler, and his mother, Susannah (nee Douty).

His wife's parents were Thomas and Catharine (nee Angstadt) Mackey.

Mr. and Mrs. Sechler had but one son, Thomas M., whose biographical sketch follows this one.

Daniel M. Sechler's early education was acquired in the public schools of his native town, supplemented by several terms in the local academy.

At seventeen years of age he began his apprenticeship at the carriage maker's trade, in the City of Port Deposit, Maryland. Four years later he entered into a co-partnership with a Mr. Ball, under the firm name of Ball & Sechler, Carriage Manufacturers, at Milton, Pennsylvania. During this period Mr. Ball died. Mr. Sechler continued the business for three years thereafter, producing from fifty to seventy-five carriages per year, and then disposing of his establishment, removed to Wooster, Ohio, where he lived in retirement for a time. Later he operated a foundry in Adams County, Ohio, and in 1852 he took the management of the pattern department of a large machine shop at Ironton, Ohio, and in 1854 erected the Star Nail Mill—now the Bellefont Iron Works—for a company at that

place, being the first nail mill erected in Ohio. He continued there until the year 1858, when he removed to Cincinnati, where he opened a large wholesale and retail store, as agent for a rolling mill, located at Pomeroy, Ohio, and iron furnaces in the vicinity of Ironton and Pomeroy.

In the year 1867 Mr. Sechler became a partner in the Swift Iron & Steel Works, at Newport, Kentucky. Two years later, in 1869, we find him interested in the manufacture of pig iron, in Montgomery County, Tennessee, and in 1877 he returned to his original business of manufacturing carriages, under the firm name of Sechler & Company, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Operating this establishment successfully for a period of ten years, he sold out his interest, with the intention of permanently retiring from active business. Now ensued a period of travel, during which he, with Mrs. Sechler, visited places of interest in Europe.

Returning home, he soon found that the life of ease which he had planned for his future was not so pleasant in realization as it had been in expectation. Of vigorous physique and active brain, and habituated to strenuous business life, the ennui of idleness soon became unbearable. He had learned the lesson that work is necessary to happiness, and acting upon this feeling, he once more launched out in business venture, this time selecting Moline, Illinois, as the scene of his operations. Here he established the D. M. Sechler Carriage Company, which stands today, the splendid monument to his later and greatest enterprise.

To the two acres of floor space, this thriving manufactory, with a capacity of ten thousand vehicles annually, was added, in 1897, the manufacture of the Black Hawk Corn Planter. The magnitude of this branch of the business will be understood by that fact that, at the time of Mr. Sechler's death, it was the second largest cornplanter works in the world.

The manufactory, under the management of his son, Thomas M. Sechler, who survives him, has kept pace with the onward sweep of the greatest business concerns of the country, and is today one of the great manufacturing establishments of Moline.

Mr. Sechler's first presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison, in 1840. He supported the Whig party until 1856, when he voted for Fremont, from which time on he affiliated with the Republican party, in National politics.

He was a Mason, made such in Kilwinning Lodge, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1869.

He married Miss Pamela Mackey, of Milton, Pennsylvania, January 19, 1841. The sole issue of this marriage was Thomas Mackey Sechler, a sketch of whose life appears in this book.

Although Mr. Sechler's home was, to the last, in Cincinnati, he spent much time in Moline, in the oversight of his extensive business. His protracted visits brought him into personal contact with a large number of Moline business men, and resulted in numerous lasting friendships; and his death left a deep sense of loss in all who knew him. Daniel M. Sechler was a courtly gentleman, of the Old School, a man of strict integrity of character, of unvarying honor in business and personal relations, exerting a profound and altogether healthful influence upon the business and social life of Moline.



### THOMAS. M. SECHLER.

**M**OLINE is a city of manufacturers, one of the most prominent of whom is the subject of this sketch, Thomas M. Sechler. He was born October 25, 1841, in Milton, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, at which place his father, D. M. Sechler, at that time conducted a carriage factory. His father, Daniel Montgomery Sechler, was born at Danville, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1818, and his mother, Pamela

(Mackey) Sechler, was born in Rutland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1819. She is still living at her home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

T. M. Sechler's paternal great-great-grandfather came from Holland in 1685, together with a brother, and settled in William Penn's territory near Philadelphia. The brother settled in North Carolina, and one hundred and seventy-eight years later the descendants of these two brothers were to be found in the ranks of the opposing armies in the war of the Rebellion. The great-grandfather, John Sechler, born March 20, 1739, died December 21, 1831, was a soldier in the American army during the Revolution, from 1776 to 1778. He was born in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and after the close of the Revolutionary war he moved to Columbia County in the same State, where he founded the town of Danville, now the county seat of Montour County.

Mr. Sechler's maternal grandmother, Susannah (Douty) Sechler, was born April 27, 1781, and died September 8, 1871. She was descended on her mother's side from John Cooper, one of the early settlers in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts, where he came in 1628. Her father, John Douty, was also a Revolutionary soldier, and was taken prisoner by the British at the capture of Fort Freeland.

His mother's great grandfather, Martin Mackey, a Revolutionary soldier, was killed at the battle of the Brandywine. His son, Andrew Mackey, was an American soldier during the war of 1812. Andrew Mackey's son, Thomas Saylor Mackey, was a lad too young to join the army with his father during the war of 1812, but he was afterward a Major in the Pennsylvania militia, and for a time was a magistrate for Northumberland County. He was a contractor, and built a portion of the Northern Central Railroad, now a part of the Pennsylvania System.

Mr. Sechler received a common school education in Adams County, Ohio, and later

attended a school in Ironton, Lawrence County, in the same State. In June, 1860, he graduated from Hughes High School, in Cincinnati, and the following September he entered the Sophomore class of Marietta College, from which he graduated July 2, 1863, ranking third in a graduating class of twelve. During the years he spent at Marietta College he pursued a classical course. Bishop C. C. McCabe, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was one of his teachers at the Ironton High School, and it was at this institution that Mr. Sechler met his future wife, who was also a pupil there.

From 1858 to 1869, and from 1877 to 1888, Mr. Sechler lived at Cincinnati, the eight years from 1869 to 1877 being spent in Montgomery County, Tennessee, where he was engaged with others in the manufacture of iron.

As has been stated, Mr. Sechler graduated from Marietta College on July 2, 1863. On the eighteenth of the same month he was enrolled in the Union Army and served throughout the war. He served with the Second Ohio Artillery, from which he resigned at the close of the war, holding the rank of First Lieutenant at the time. He saw most of his service in Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee. Part of his time was spent on detached service, he being at different times Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Acting Assistant Quartermaster and Provost Marshal, but he was with his Regiment on all its important moves. He was, however, in only one severe engagement, that being with Wheeler's Cavalry at Calhoun, Tennessee, during the month of August, 1864.

From 1866 to 1869 Mr. Sechler was engaged in business with his father at Cincinnati, and from 1869 to 1877, as has been said, he was in the iron industry at Montgomery County, Tennessee. From November 1877, to December, 1888, he was a member of the firm of Sechler & Company, carriage manufacturers, at Cincinnati, his father being

president of that firm until he retired in May, 1887, to resume again at Moline, Illinois.

On January 8, 1889, eighteen months later, T. M. Sechler came to Moline to join his father in the business that he had already established there, ever since which time he has been a resident of that city. His first connection with the Moline firm was as Vice-President of that industry, but upon the death of his father in 1903 he succeeded him as President of the institution, which office he has held since that time. He is also President of the Wright Carriage Body Company, a director in the Mutual Wheel Company, all Moline industries, besides holding stock in several other factories in that city.

He was married at Ironton, Ohio, June 7, 1866, to his former schoolmate, Miss Juliet McCullough, daughter of Addison McCullough, one of the leading iron manufacturers at that place. His wife's four great grandfathers were Revolutionary soldiers, and she is a member of the Moline Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sechler, two sons who died in infancy, and one daughter, Mary Addie, now the wife of Mr. Howard O. Edmonds, Assistant Secretary of the Northern Trust Company, of Chicago.

Mr. Sechler has never been an aspirant for political honors, the only officer he ever held being school trustee in Montgomery County, Tennessee, and at the same time he was also postmaster at Vernon Furnace, a town in that county. Although not an office seeker himself, Mr. Sechler has always been a staunch and loyal Republican, his first vote being cast for Abraham Lincoln during the time he was in the army in 1864. He is a strong adherent to the principles of his party and has never failed to support its candidates for President since he cast his first vote.

In religious faith Mr. Sechler was originally a Presbyterian, but upon coming to Moline he became connected with the First Congre-

gational Church of that City, to which he has given his allegiance ever since.

He is a Mason, being a member of Doric Lodge, Moline; a Royal Arch Mason, and a member of the Chapter of Knight Templars at Rock Island.

He has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic since 1880, first joining that organization at Cincinnati, and upon removal to Moline transferring his membership to the Post at the latter city. While at Cincinnati he filled various Post offices, from officer of the day to Post Commander, and was also chief mustering officer of the Department of Ohio. He represented Ohio in the Council of Administration during the last year of his residence there. He also belongs to the Loyol Legion, holding his membership in Ohio.

Besides these organizations, Mr. Sechler belongs to the Moline Club and to the National Association of Carriage Builders, in which for three years he was a vice-president.

He is also a member of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Sechler is a man of marked administrative ability. The industries which he controls are prosperous and thriving ones, their increase and growth being continuous and steady. He is one of the men to whom Moline owes the distinguished position she holds in the galaxy of manufacturing cities of America.



### REVEREND THOMAS MACKIN.

REVEREND THOMAS MACKIN was born in County Armagh, Ireland, January 4, 1841, the son of Daniel and Ann Mackin. His rudimentary education was received in the Government schools of his native land, and upon his completion of the course afforded there, he turned to teaching as a means of livelihood, and to pave the way for the attainment of wider educational advantages. In 1861 Thomas Mackin came to America, settling in Leland, Illinois. Here his brother James, was engaged in the dry goods,



VERY REV. THOMAS MACKIN







H. P. SIMPSON



commission and land business. It was during war time and they did an extensive business. Thomas, however, despite that he was on the road to sure fortune in the business, was not content to devote his life to commercial pursuits. He craved knowledge, and his studious nature and literary inclinations developed a desire for the priesthood. With a view to fitting himself for holy orders, first he entered Notre Dame University, but remained there only a brief period, when he enrolled at Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia. Here he received his classical education—graduating at the head of his class in 1871. His diploma was conferred by General William Tecumseh Sherman. He was made Bachelor of Arts in 1871, by the university, and Master of Arts in 1888. From Georgetown he went to St. Mary's, Baltimore, Maryland, to complete his theological studies, and was ordained in Chicago by Bishop Foley August 18, 1874. Immediately after his ordination he was made assistant at St. Patrick's Church, Chicago, remaining in that position three years. He was then sent to Lena, Illinois, where he had charge of a church, and six out-missions. Father Mackin came to Rock Island September 14, 1877, to take the rectorship of St. Joseph's Church, succeeding Father Joseph Rolls. Fifteen years ago Father Mackin, who had remained continuously as pastor of St. Joseph's Church, was made a dean and irremovable rector by Bishop John Lancaster Spaulding, of the Peoria diocese.

He was ever a lover of education, and one of his first works on coming to Rock Island was to establish St. Joseph's Parochial School, the first successful school of its kind in Rock Island. Later he endowed a scholarship in the Spaulding Institute at Peoria (a school for boys), and has the honor of endowing the first permanent scholarship of the Villa de Chantel (a school for young ladies).

The St. Anthony's Hospital was also established under Father Mackin's direction.

His death occurred on February 16, 1905.

Father Mackin leaves to his parish a church with valuable property abutting on the north side, a handsome school on Second Avenue, and Calvary Cemetery.



### HARRY P. SIMPSON.

HARRY P. SIMPSON, editor of the Rock Island *Argus*, was born in Davenport, Iowa, on July 6, 1863, and moved to Rock Island in 1887. He attended the public schools in his native city, and while yet in high school he developed a decided taste for newspaper work, serving as reporter on a society paper called the *Saturday Afternoon People*. His work attracted attention and he was offered a position on the staff of the Davenport *Gazette*, which he accepted, representing that paper in a reportorial capacity in Rock Island and Moline. A little later he was made city editor of the *Gazette* and held that position for two years. He later served as city editor of the Davenport *Herald*. In 1887 he removed to Rock Island, having become city editor of the *Argus*. The *Argus* was then owned and edited by the late John W. Potter. After his death, in 1898, publication was continued by the J. W. Potter Company, consisting of Mrs. M. E. Potter, H. P. Simpson and the late James J. LaVelle, with Mr. Simpson as editor, a position he has filled to the present time with conspicuous ability and success. On August 12, 1884, Mr. Simpson was married to Miss Ella P. Skiles, daughter of H. M. G. and Eliza J. (McKissen) Skiles, a woman of beautiful character and many accomplishments, a devout member of the Episcopal Church, and whose untimely death, February 21, 1903, is mourned by a large circle. Two daughters, Miss Mary E. Simpson and Miss Dorothy B. Simpson, live to bless the union so happily formed. Mr. Simpson is the son of Joseph L. and Eliza A. (Purcell) Simpson

the former a native of Missouri and the latter of South Carolina. Both are now deceased. The paternal grandfather, Dr. Robert Simpson, was a pioneer physician in St. Louis, Missouri, and one of the earlier sheriffs of St. Louis County. The maternal grandfather was a lawyer in South Carolina and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Mr. Simpson is a member of the Tri-City Press Club, the Rock Island Club, the Press Club of Chicago, and the Illinois Press Association, and enjoys the friendship and esteem of a large acquaintance. His fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen and the National Union.

#### CAPTAIN JOHN BURGESS DAVIS.

WHEN the great West was young the Mississippi River, as the principal gateway to it and almost the sole means of conveying its products to the outside world was the center of commercial life. Men who followed the river were participants in stirring events and their work was fraught with an importance in the eyes of the public that we of today can little realize. To be a steamboat captain in the fifties and sixties invested the individual with a dignity as great as that accorded to the average railroad magnate nowadays.

Captain John Burgess Davis earned his title when the great stream was at its best, and there were few who won greater honors than he for his calling. Among his most notable achievements was the taking of the first boat up the Minnesota River to Big Stone Lake; thence into the Red River of the North, and the construction of the first wing dam on the Mississippi. The boat he took into the Red River was the "Freighter." It was in 1859 that he navigated through Big Stone Lake into the Northern stream. The first wing dam was built some years later, in 1873, when he was in charge of a Government fleet, and it was located three

miles below St. Paul, at Pig's Eye Island. This method of improvement, which he was the first to use on the Upper Mississippi, has since been generally adopted and has done more than any other device in giving a uniform channel for steamboat navigation.

Captain Davis was born to the vocation he followed with success. His father, Thomas Bodley Davis, was a river man before him.

Born in Pennsylvania, in 1800, the father removed early in life to Kentucky, and for a number of years commanded a boat plying between Pittsburg and New Orleans. On one of these trips up from the southern metropolis he was stricken with yellow fever and died, in 1835. The son was born at Maysville, Kentucky, April 19, 1828, and died at Rock Island, Illinois, November 26, 1890. River life appealed to him from a boy, and at an early age he was given command of a boat running between Cincinnati and St. Louis. Within a few years he became owner of the line. In 1858 he turned his attention to the Upper Mississippi and established a packet line between St. Louis and St. Paul. At that time he came to Moline and made his home there one year, returning then to Kentucky. He retained his interests on the Father of Waters, however, and was at St. Paul when the war of the Rebellion broke out. Though a southerner by birth and education, he enlisted when the first call for troops came, in the Second Minnesota Regiment, entering the service as Captain of Company F, July 8, 1861. He was promoted to the rank of Major November 5, 1862. At the battle of Chickamauga he fought in General Thomas' Division, and after his horse was shot under him he was wounded so severely that he was carried from the field and sent home. He did not recover sufficiently to enable him to rejoin his command, and was mustered out April 16, 1864. Honorable mention and his war record is given in "Minnesota in the Civil War," a book published by the State of Minnesota to preserve a record of its soldiers.



In 1866 Captain Davis resumed steam-boating, conducting a line of his own from Memphis, Tennessee, up White River to Augusta, Arkansas. He made his home at Memphis till 1873, when he removed once more to Rock Island and entered the U. S. Government service, in the capacity of Captain of the United States Steamer *Montana*. For three years he served under Colonel Macomb of the United States Engineer Corps, then in charge of the Upper Mississippi River Improvement. In 1877 he took a Government contract to convey up the Missouri, Yellowstone and Little Big Horn Rivers (the latter never before navigated), the material for the building of Forts Custer and Keough, in Montana, the freight being secured at Bismarck, Dakota, then the Western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad. This was immediately after the Custer massacre, when the region in which he operated was full of great peril. Captain Davis, however, knew no fear, and fulfilled his contract with promptness and with satisfaction to all concerned. Then he returned to Rock Island and became connected with the Diamond Jo Packet Company, commanding one of its best steamers running between St. Louis and St. Paul. In 1883 his services in another arduous undertaking were demanded and he accepted an offer from the Hudson Bay Fur Company to superintend a line of boats on the Saskatchewan River, in Canada. He had been thus engaged for two years when the Riel rebellion broke out and the Canadian Government secured his services in transporting troops on the South Saskatchewan, a stream which had never before been navigated. After the capture of Riel and the collapse of the rebellion, Captain Davis once more returned to Rock Island and to the employ of "Diamond Jo" Reynolds. Being appointed master of the "Libbie Conger," he commanded that boat one season and then served in a similar capacity on the "Sidney." In 1888 he re-

signed to become associated with a syndicate of capitalists in the construction of a steel hull packet, which was intended to be used for passenger business only and was expected to work a revolution in transportation between St. Louis and St. Paul. This project was never consummated, for the Captain yielded to the wishes of his family and turned his attention from the river to other enterprises. For two years prior to his death he was associated with his sons, T. B. and S. S. Davis, in developing an electric light and power plant in Rock Island and Moline.

Captain Davis was united in marriage with Miss Anna E. Sharpe, March 13, 1855. His wife was the daughter of Dr. Samuel K. Sharpe, a prominent physician and surgeon. Both her parents were natives of Kentucky, their home being for many years at Maysville. They first came to Rock Island in 1857 and remained three years in Rock Island and Moline, during which time Dr. Sharpe practiced his profession. They then returned to Kentucky and resided there till 1875, when they took up their permanent residence in Rock Island. Mrs. Sharpe died at Rock Island June 6, 1881, at the age of seventy-five years. Dr. Sharpe passed away in Rock Island May 22, 1890, at the age of ninety years. He was an exceptionally strong man, mentally and physically, and was of pronounced religious views, giving adherence to the Presbyterian Faith.

Five children were born to Captain and Mrs. Davis, two daughters dying in infancy. The survivors are T. B. Davis, S. S. Davis, and Mary Davis, all of Rock Island. Captain Davis was essentially a man of action. Bearing responsibilities never detracted from his good nature, and angry words and fault finding were alike foreign to him.

Kind hearted and generous to a fault, always ready to aid others to the full extent of his ability, and never seeking publicity or preferment, won for him the good will and personal popularity he enjoyed wherever he was known

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN KNOX.

THE mission of the undertaker, rightly estimated, is not less one of helpfulness and comfort than of the mere burying of the dead for a price. Viewed in the higher aspect it is on a plane with that of the family physician, and but little less sacred than that of the minister of the gospel. The proper discharge of the duties calls for tact and genuine human sympathy. The conscientious funeral director who labors for a long term of years in a community comes, through association in most trying times, to know the people intimately and to be their friend, regardless of their social position.

Such a man is B. F. Knox, who for thirty-five years has been actively engaged in the undertaking business in Rock Island. Few, indeed, in the county are better known than he, and few have more close personal friends. Taking up the work with his father when but twenty years of age he has steadily followed the vocation since, and in his long term of service has at one time or another been called into perhaps two-thirds of the homes of Rock Island and the surrounding country. His standing in his home city may be judged by the fact that he has repeatedly been given public office, serving two terms as Mayor.

B. F. Knox was born in Rock Island December 3, 1852, and has never resided elsewhere. His education was secured in the public schools of the city. When he first set out to earn his own living he worked in a grocery store. Later he had charge of the office of the Rock Island Union. In 1872 he took up the undertaking business with his father, Charles B. Knox, who was then advancing in years. The elder Mr. Knox was born June 27, 1818, and died May 28, 1890. His wife, Mary Gohram Knox, was born September 14, 1819, and died April 20, 1893. The son worked with his father till the latter's death and thereafter conducted the business for the estate until the affairs

were settled after his mother's death. Since then he has had sole charge.

Mr. Knox has been a Republican and a Methodist ever since old enough to form an opinion on such matters. His first public office was as chief of the volunteer fire department of Rock Island, in which capacity he served in 1886 and 1887. He was elected alderman from the Fifth Ward in 1889, and at the end of the term was re-elected, serving continuously till 1893. He was first elected Mayor in 1895, and held the office for the term of two years. In 1901 he was again similarly honored, completing his second term in 1903.

Of a congenial disposition, Mr. Knox delights in fraternal work. He holds membership in the Odd Fellows, Modern Wooden of America, Knights of the Globe, North Star Benefit Association, the Eagles and the Elks. In nearly all he has held responsible offices. He is past exalted ruler of the Rock Island Elks, and twice represented them at the grand lodge.

Mr. Knox, February 19, 1875, at Rock Island, married Miss Emma Minter, and the children born of this union are: Lillian, wife of S. R. Kenworthy, of Rock Island; George S., who died July 2, 1900, and Mary A. and Harry T., at home.



## JAMES A. WENDELL.

TO the subject of this sketch more than to any other person, perhaps, is due the fact that the finest plant in the United States for the manufacture of table oil cloth is now located in Rock Island. During a long career as traveling salesman for an eastern manufacturer he was impressed with the advantages of the upper Mississippi valley as a site for a factory, and it was the soundness of his reasoning which impressed the officers of the Standard Oil Cloth Company and led to the location of the present factory on the Father of Waters at Rock Island.



J. A. WENDELL





CHARLES B KNOX





The new establishment, it may be added, prospered from the beginning, and bids fair to see substantial developments from time to time.

James Augustus Wendell, sales agent for the Rock Island plant of the Standard Oil Cloth Company, and a stockholder of the Company, was born at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1848, the son of Joseph Wendell, a prominent merchant of Bethlehem. In the public schools of his native city, Bethlehem Academy and the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Seminary, he obtained a good general education, and at the age of seventeen entered the employ of a wholesale boot and shoe house at Philadelphia. Starting as errand boy he rose successively to bookkeeper, traveling salesman and junior partner, this last position being reached in 1871. The panic of 1873, however, swept the firm under and our subject became traveling salesman for a wholesale boot and shoe house at Easton, Pennsylvania. In 1877 Mr. Wendell went to New York, where he took a lucrative position as head bookkeeper in an extensive coffee and spice importing house. After four years he made another change, becoming bookkeeper for the Atha & Hughes table oil cloth manufacturing concern at Newark, New Jersey, with headquarters at New York. This he did to escape the confinement of office work, being promised the first vacant territory as traveling salesman.

In 1883 the promise was fulfilled and Mr. Wendell took a road position in which his ability quickly manifested itself. He remained with this concern till 1900, when it was purchased by the Standard people. In this period he traveled in every section of the United States, and always met with success. The transfer of the business did not affect his work and he continued in the same capacity under the new owners. While with Atha & Hughes he had advocated the advisability of erecting a factory on the Mississippi River, and it seemed at one time that his dream was to be realized. Then the oppor-

tunity to sell came and the project was dropped. The same plan was later laid before the Standard Table Oil Cloth Company, and Rock Island was suggested as the site on account of its advantages as a distributing point. Eventually another man was sent to the Mississippi valley to select a location for a factory and he, too, recommended Rock Island. Thus it came about that in 1902\* the Rock Island factory was erected and Mr. Wendell was sent west to sell its products. The new plant has a capacity of 2,500 pieces of twelve yards each, daily, and it has never been idle a day on account of lack of orders.

In 1902 Mr. Wendell was sent to Europe by his employers to gather new ideas and find new markets for the firm's wares. He was given a free hand and covered twelve countries of central Europe in one hundred days, his mission being an unqualified success.

The subject of this sketch was married July 23, 1871, uniting with Anna R. Shemelia, daughter of Michael Shemelia, of Camden, New Jersey. The couple have three children: Mary Charlotte, wife of William A. Drabble, of Newark, New Jersey; Lillian Hazleton, wife of William T. VanArsdale, general agent for the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, with offices at Peoria; and Elliott Hughes, a graduate of Yale in the class of 1905, and now also in the employ of Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City.

Mr. Wendell is a communicant of Trinity Episcopal Church, of Rock Island. He is a member and trustee of Rock Island Lodge, No. 980, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and also holds membership in the Rock Island Club.



#### EDWIN B. KNOX.

ONE of the earliest born residents of Rock Island County is Edwin B. Knox, of Moline. Since October 15, 1842, when he first saw the light of day at Rock Island,

Mr. Knox has continuously made his home in one of these two cities or their immediate vicinity. At the time of his birth, Rock Island, then known as Stephenson, was but a fair sized village and Moline but a settlement. His parents, Charles B. and Mary (Gorham) Knox, then lived in the middle of the present block east of Twentieth street, opposite Spencer Square, and the son first attended school in a small brick school house in the middle of Spencer Square. Later he pursued his studies in the basement of the old Methodist Church, located in the early fifties in the northwest corner of the same square. He finished the common branches at what was the first high school erected in the city at Seventh Avenue and Twenty-first Street.

The parents of our subject came to Stephenson in the Spring of 1842, their financial resources consisting at the time they landed from the steamboat that had brought them from St. Louis, of a single shilling. The father, though a cabinet maker of ability, sought work at anything that offered, putting much of the time for the first two or three seasons digging wells for the new settlers, and making furniture at odd moments, till he secured a start.

Charles B. Knox was born at Blandford, Massachusetts, June 27 1818, and died May 28, 1890. He was a grandson of four brothers who came to America from Scotland soon after the Revolutionary war and settled in the Bay State. Mary Gorham was born at Holyoke, Massachusetts September 14, 1819, and died April 20, 1893, at Rock Island. Her marriage to Mr. Knox took place at Blandford, Massachusetts, April 9, 1839. Six children were born to the couple: Edwin B., John Milton, Theodore, Curtis B., Samuel P., and B. Frank Knox. John Milton and Theodore died in infancy and the others are still living.

As before stated, Edwin B. Knox secured an education in the ordinary branches in the

public schools of Rock Island. The Summer he was twelve years of age he set out as a bread winner, working at a brick yard conducted by John Atkinson south of town. The following Summer he found employment under John P. Wharton, editor of the *Rock Island Advertiser*. In the Summer of 1857 Mr. Knox and Thomas Pilgrim farmed the Brashar place on the Milan road in South Rock Island. In 1858 and 1859 Mr. Knox worked the Erskine Wilson farm just east of Coaltown. Two following years were spent tilling the soil in what was then the Glen settlement and then our subject returned to Rock Island and began the manufacture of brooms. This he continued till the spring of 1864, when he enlisted, May 3, in Company G, One Hundred and Fortieth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving as First Sergeant. On completing his term he again entered the Army with Company G, Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being Orderly Sergeant. His last term of enlistment began February 27, 1865, and he was mustered out at Selma, Alabama, January 21, 1866.

After the close of the war Mr. Knox took up house painting, first with George Alters and later with Henry Boggess as partners. In 1870 he purchased and occupied a fruit farm of thirty acres northeast of Black Hawk's Watch Tower. Four years later he disposed of his land and took up his residence in Moline, where he established the undertaking business which he has conducted with great success ever since. For thirty-three years he occupied the building at 413 Fifteenth Street, having also a picture framing and art novelty establishment. In 1896 he sold the Fifteenth Street property and built a new store and residence at the corner of Eighteenth Street and Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Knox has been many times honored with election to public office. When he had been a resident of Moline for but four years he was, in 1878, chosen to represent the



WALTER JOHNSON





Third Ward in the City Council. He served again in the same capacity in 1881 and 1882, and in the Spring of 1883 was elected Mayor, succeeding S. W. Wheelock, and served one term. Later he was chosen member of the board of supervisors of Rock Island County. He also filled the office of president of the board of education of Moline for a term. Mr. Knox is a Republican, and a man of influence in the party. He is a member of the Methodist Church. He is a past noble grand in Lodge No. 133, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member of R. H. Graham Post, No. 312, Grand Army of the Republic, in which he has served two terms as post commander.

Mr. Knox was united in marriage September 15, 1868, with Miss Lizzie Verharen, youngest daughter of Anton and Mary (Lindsey) Verharen. The parents came to America from Germany, their native country, and located at East St. Louis, where the father died many years ago. The couple were the parents of six children: Henry, Frank and William Verharen, Amelia, wife of Peter Schwin; Gertrude, wife of David Thompson, of Rock Island; and Mrs. Knox. All save the last named were born in Germany, Mrs. Knox's native city being Alton, Illinois. Of the family, Amelia, Frank and Henry have passed away. The mother died October 17, 1869, at Rock Island. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Knox: Amy, wife of Robert Bennett, Jr., of Rock Island, and Luther C. Knox, of Moline.

#### WALTER JOHNSON.

MR. WALTER JOHNSON, the subject of this sketch, died in Rock Island, November 23, 1903. He was for a third of a century one of the vital forces of the community. For twenty-seven years he occupied the editorial chair of the *Daily Union*, in which position he at all times was an able and courageous champion of that

which he considered right, and calculated to make the community better. His editorial utterances carried weight not only because of their intrinsic merit and evident fairness in the presentation of the subjects under discussion, but because it was recognized throughout the community that they represented the honest and calm judgment of a man who in his private life exemplified his public utterances, and who at all times was actuated by the principles and motives of the Christian gentleman of the highest type.

Mr. Johnson was born in London, England, April 27, 1843, being a son of John F. and Harriette Augusta (Ryley) Johnson. The elder Mr. Johnson, who was a ribbon manufacturer in England, came to this country in 1851, settling at Welton, Iowa, at which place and Lyons, Iowa, he engaged in general merchandising, in connection with farming, until 1862, when he removed to Davenport, where he engaged in the grocery trade until 1867, when he removed to Rock Island, which city was his home until his death in 1888.

Walter Johnson, whose educational opportunities in England and Iowa were supplemented by private study, inspired by the influence of cultured parents, his mother bringing to Welton the first piano ever seen in that section of the country, early evinced a predilection for newspaper work; but he loyally assisted his father in his mercantile ventures until he attained his majority, when he accepted a place on the staff of the *Davenport Democrat*. In 1868 he became the local editor of the *Daily Union*, and his connection with that paper continued until his death, with the exception of the Summer and Winter of 1873, when he was on the editorial staff of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*. Returning to Rock Island in the Spring of 1874, he bought a fourth interest in the Union Printing Company, which had been organized a few months before to take over the property from Captain L. M. Haverstick. Mr. Johnson succeeded Mr. Haverstick as editor of

the *Union* and continued in the active discharge of the work until his health failed. Mr. Johnson successively purchased the interests of other stockholders until in 1891, by acquiring the holdings of Mr. H. C. Ashbaugh, he secured control of all the stock.

Mr. Johnson's editorial policy was invariably on a high plane. He abhorred sensationalism, and the parading of happenings of a salacious nature in the columns of the paper, which for such a long period bore the impress of his wholesome personality and estimable character. The community looked upon him as an able advocate of all measures and movements which were calculated to minister to the elevation of mankind, and a convincing champion of the best interests of the community in which he lived. He had the faculty of presenting matters of local concern with a grace and charm peculiar to himself, while his discussion of political topics was marked by a lucidity and breadth of view which made them valuable contributions to current symposiums. His editorial utterances received additional weight from the fact that the element of personal rancor was ever absent. Of a manly and generous nature he was loyal in his friendships, and chivalrous in his treatment of those who differed with him concerning men and measures. A Republican by conviction, his newspaper, the *Union*, was recognized as a sound and influential exponent of the party's policies and doctrines.

Beside his constant work in his editorial capacity, Mr. Johnson also gave personal service at the sacrifice of much needed leisure. He took special pleasure in his work as a director of the Public Library. He became a member of the board in 1890, and served continuously until his death. He was a member of the building committee which directed the erection of the present splendid home of the library. In 1891, when Rock Island, by Congregational enactment, was made a port of entry, President Harrison appointed

Mr. Johnson surveyor of customs, a position he held for three years, when President Cleveland appointed Mr. J. R. Johnston to succeed him.

Religiously, Mr. Johnson was an Episcopalian. He was a devout member of Trinity Church, and diligent and useful in the activities of the parish. He served the parish for a number of years as vestryman, and during the last three years of his life as Junior Warden.

Mr. Johnson was married in this city March 22, 1869, to Miss Ellen Head, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Head, who survives, together with two daughters, the Misses Harriette A. and Marguerite Johnson. One son, Eliot Leigh Johnson, was drowned in a boating accident on the Mississippi River April 12, 1892, when a boat containing four high school students was upset, resulting in the drowning of Leigh and one of his comrades.



### SAMUEL SHARPE DAVIS.

IN considering those among Rock Island's citizens whose activities have been directed toward developing that City's industries, and whose foresight has been rewarded in a most substantial manner, one's mind instinctively turns to the subject of our present sketch, Samuel Sharpe Davis.

He was born February 1, 1858, at Covington, Kentucky, his parents being John B. and Anna E. (Sharpe) Davis. To this couple three children were born: Thomas B., Samuel S., and Mary. The parents were of Scotch-Irish origin. Thomas Bodley Davis, the paternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania. In early life he moved to Kentucky, and for some years served as captain of a steamboat plying between Pittsburgh and New Orleans on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Upon one of the trips up river from New Orleans he was stricken with yellow fever, and died before the completion of the journey. At the time of his death he was thirty-four years of age.

The maternal grandfather, Samuel K. Sharpe, was a native of Kentucky. He was a practicing physician and surgeon. The greater part of his life was spent in Maysville, Kentucky. He removed to Rock Island with his wife in 1875. Her death occurred in 1881 at the age of seventy-six years. Her husband survived her nine years, his death occurring in Rock Island in 1890, at the extreme age of ninety years. Dr. Sharpe was a remarkably strong man, both physically and mentally, and was of pronounced religious conviction, giving his adherence to the Presbyterian faith. In politics he was a Democrat.

John B. Davis, the father of our subject, followed the calling of his father, that of a river captain, almost his entire life, principally upon the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. For some time he had charge of Canadian Government boats carrying the supplies of the Hudson Bay Fur Company on the Saskatchewan River. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to the rank of Major and for nearly three years he served with his Regiment. He was with his Regiment in the battles of Chickamauga, Mill Springs, Corinth and Tullahoma. At the battle of Chickamauga he was wounded. During the time that Major Davis served with his Regiment it was attached first to the command of General Buell and later to that of General Thomas.

After the close of the Civil War Major Davis went to Augusta, Arkansas, and later located at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1868. He settled permanently in Rock Island in 1874. He spent the greater portion of his life upon the river in command of the different river packets. After coming to Rock Island he was one of the Diamond Jo Line captains until about one year before his death, which occurred in 1890, when he was sixty-one years of age. His wife still makes Rock Island her home. Politically, Major Davis

was a staunch Democrat. He was a prominent Mason and a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, in which faith he died.

Having thus passed rapidly over the points of interest in the lives of the forebears of our subject, we now come to treat of his life. His education was obtained in the schools of Memphis, Tennessee, and in Rock Island. In 1873 he was employed as clerk on the steamer *Montana*, a boat commanded by his father. He continued in this service for several seasons, attending school during the Winter months. In 1876 his father had a Government contract to carry supplies from Bismarck, Dakota, up the Missouri, Yellowstone and Big Horn Rivers to the place where the Custer Massacre occurred. Upon this expedition he was accompanied by his son. Upon their return to Rock Island the son was employed as clerk for J. H. Langley, who was agent for a line of boats in the St. Louis and St. Paul trade. On January 1, 1878, he was employed by Thomas Yates in Moline, where he was engaged in the plumbing and steam fitting business. He continued in this employment until the death of Mr. Yates, which occurred in 1881. Mr. Davis and his brother, Thomas B. Davis, had obtained a number of valuable patents upon steam appliances, and together with Jacob Riley of Rock Island, they formed a partnership known as "Davis & Company." They bought out the business interests of the Yates estate both in Rock Island and Moline. In 1882 the Davis Brothers bought out Mr. Riley's interest in the business and continued it themselves until 1891, when the Davis Company was incorporated by them.

Meanwhile our subject was engaged in many important operations. He planned and superintended the construction of the Moline water-works, which was begun in the Spring of 1884. He also installed the first electric light plant in the City of Moline. In 1886 he constructed the Davis Block in that city, and as secretary and manager of the

Merchants' Electric Light Company, lighted the streets of Moline. Eighty arc lights were installed, which superseded the old street gas lamps with which the city had formerly been lighted.

In 1887 the Peoples Light & Fuel Manufacturing Company was organized. Of this organization Mr. Davis was elected secretary and general manager. He purchased the stock of the Moline Gas & Coke Company and merged the institution with that of the Merchants Electric Light Company.

In 1888 the Merchants Electric Light Company of Rock Island was organized. In the Autumn of that same year a power plant was erected in Moline, so arranged as to utilize that city's splendid water power in its operation. The machinery of the Peoples Light & Fuel Manufacturing Company of Moline, as well as that of the Merchants Electric Light Company of Rock Island, was removed to this new power plant. This arrangement led up to the formation of the Peoples Power Company in 1893. This latter organization, which included the companies in which Mr. Davis was already interested, bought out the Rock Island Brush Electric Light Company and the Rock Island Gas & Coke Company. Both of these plants were removed to Moline, where they were located at the foot of Fourth Street in that city. Mr. Davis planned the reorganization and also the construction of the new plants. He sold his interests in the Peoples Power Company in 1906.

On September 21, 1892, occurred the marriage of Samuel Sharpe Davis and Miss Apollonia Weyerhaeuser, the daughter of Frederick and Sarah Weyerhaeuser. One child has been born of this marriage, a son, Edwin W. Davis.

Mr. Davis in his church allegiance is a Presbyterian and is a trustee of the Broadway Presbyterian Church of Rock Island. In politics he is a Democrat, but he has never desired or held public office. Fraternally he

is a member of Trio Lodge, No. 57, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; of Barrett Chapter, No. 18, and of Evarts Commandery, No. 18, Knights Templar. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America. Such are the interesting events in the career of a man who, through business sagacity and acumen, has risen to a commanding position in this locality's financial and industrial circles. Mr. Davis is a man universally liked by all who are acquainted with him. Although at all times a busy man he is easily approachable. In manner he is unassuming and without ostentation. He is one of Rock Island's most public spirited and progressive citizens, and no movement for the real advancement of the city is launched that does not receive his active and hearty co-operation, and where the project is one that requires financial subscription his gift is always a liberal one. In fine it may be said that Mr. Davis is pre-eminently an organizer and an executive, a man of great business talent, and a courteous, kindly gentleman.



## HENRY STELCK.

HENRY STELCK, a promising young member of the Rock Island County bar, is a native of the City of Rock Island, having been born there February 12, 1878. His father was Peter Stelek and his mother Caroline (Koester) Stelek. Both the parents immigrated to America from Germany. Mr. Stelek, the elder, was born in 1833 in Wisch, Propstei, Schleswig-Holstein. The mother was born in Lensah in the same state in 1845. The father located in Rock Island in 1867, after having for ten years immediately following his removal to America, been a resident of Davenport, Iowa. The parents of the subject of this sketch were married in 1869, the mother dying May 27, 1883, and the father January 4, 1897. Of the seven children born to them five are living: Emma, wife

of W. W. Harris, of Rock Island; Bertha, wife of Dr. O. P. Sala, of Davenport; Elizabeth G., and Henry, of Rock Island, and William, of Lakefield, Minnesota.

Our subject obtained his first schooling in the Roessler German school of Rock Island. Later he attended the German Lutheran school and eventually he entered the public schools, from which he graduated in 1894, after completing the high school course. After one year spent as a student at Augustana College he took up the study of law with Wood, Butterworth & Peek, of Moline. His professional training was completed with a three-year course at Northwestern University Law School. Shortly after beginning to practice he formed a partnership with M. M. Sturgeon, known as Sturgeon & Stelek, later becoming Sturgeon, Stelek & Sturgeon which partnership was later dissolved.

In the practice of law Mr. Stelek has manifested more than average ability. He is above all sham and pretense and his honesty and candor have won him friends on all hands. He is a Republican and has been more or less active in politics. Fraternally he is a member of the Masons.



#### JYLVESTER WASHINGTON McMASTER.

**A**LMOST the only living individual among those earliest settlers who came to Rock Island County in the thirties and forties, when the present City of Rock Island was a small village, known as Stephenson, is Sylvester Washington McMaster, a man whom nearly every man, woman and child throughout Rock Island County knows, either personally or by reputation.

He was born October 8, 1811, near Watertown, in Herkimer County, New York, and died January 22, 1908, at the age of ninety-six years. His early life was spent upon a farm and he received such education as he could in the country schools of that time. At the age of nineteen years he himself was

a school teacher, having charge of the same school which he had formerly attended as a pupil.

Mr. McMaster came West in 1833, traveling by water from the City of Buffalo in his native State. The canal at that time was completed from Cleveland, Ohio, to Portsmouth, in the same state, and connecting with the Ohio River. Coming first to Cairo, Illinois, Mr. McMaster proceeded to St. Louis, and from thence to Galena, Illinois, on the Mississippi.

At that early day there were but few houses in the village of Stephenson, and but one in what is now Davenport, that of Antoine LeClaire. Mr. McMaster spent two years (1833 and 1834) at Galena and then returned to St. Louis, where he spent about two years, from there coming to Stephenson again, and here he made his home until 1841. During this time he was engaged in the mercantile business. He also served one term as assessor. The store building occupied by the firm of McMaster & Andrews still stands, it being what is now known as the Roessler building, directly east from the Court House.

In 1840 Mr. McMaster was united in marriage to Miss Jannette Brooks, who died August 17, 1908, at the age of eighty-four years, whose parents had come to Stephenson in 1835 and dwelt in a log house near the spot where the home of the Honorable Ben T. Cable is now located. Mr. and Mrs. McMaster continued to make their home in Stephenson until 1841, when they removed once more to Galena, where Mr. McMaster was engaged in various enterprises of a mercantile nature. Galena was at that time the metropolis of the Northern part of Illinois. The lead mines were at their zenith and the town was very prosperous. In Galena Mr. McMaster was actively engaged in the management of some of the largest and costliest flour mills at that time in the West, and he was also a large stockholder in the old Northern Line steamers.



At this time steamboating upon the Mississippi was in the full flower of its glory, and the railroad was not a factor in the transportation.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. McMaster served as a conscript officer. He was not engaged in active service, being at that time beyond the age limit at which volunteers were received for active, military service.

Mr. and Mrs. McMaster continued to make their home in Galena until 1866, when, with their family, they returned to Rock Island, and here Mr. McMaster has lived a retired life since that time. He served a number of years as president of the board of education, and was also president of the library board. In the work of the public schools he has always taken the keenest interest, and until very recently was one of the most frequent of visitors throughout the various school buildings of Rock Island.

On May 17, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. McMaster celebrated the sixty-sixth anniversary of their marriage. Their union has been blessed with three children: Mrs. Mary Blackburn, of Rock Island; Mrs. Jannette Bansemer, of Torreon, Mexico; and George McMaster, secretary of the Mutual Wheel Company, at Moline, Illinois.

In religious faith Mr. McMaster was a Universalist, but finding that the church of his choice had no house of worship in Rock Island he became an attendant of the Broadway Presbyterian Church.

In politics he was originally a Whig, but joined the Republican party upon its formation, and has been a staunch advocate of its principles since 1856.

He is the author of a book entitled "Sixty Years on the Upper Mississippi," and is one of the very few men who have seen Rock Island grow from a primitive backwoods settlement to what it is today, and his book is full of reminiscences of those early days and of the adventures

and experiences of himself and his acquaintances.

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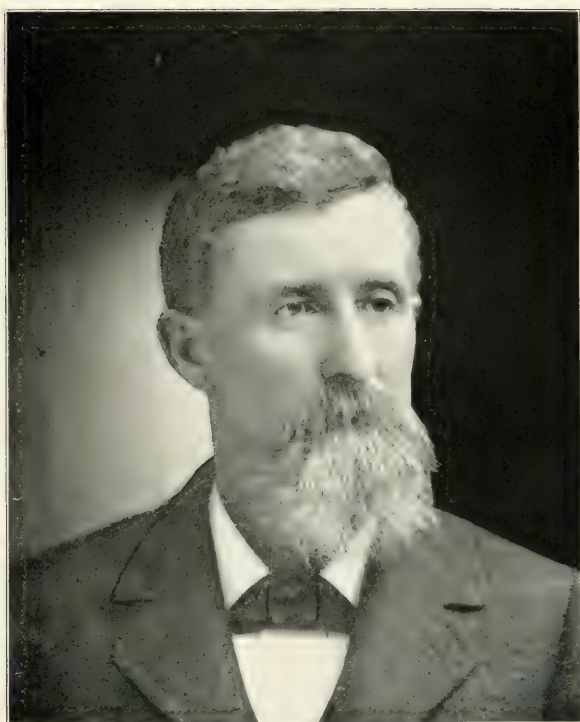
### CHARLES R. NOURSE.

BORN in Missouri, reared in Ohio and now engaged in manufacturing in Illinois, three great states have had to do with the career of the subject of this sketch. Charles Robert Nourse was born in St. Louis December 27, 1864, the son of Gilbert D. and Almira J. (Keith) Nourse. When eight years of age the family removed to Cleveland and six years later to Springfield. In the public schools of the two Ohio cities the son obtained his early education. In early manhood he became bookkeeper with a manufacturer of children's carriages at Springfield, and later he became connected with the Whitely interests, then among the most extensive engaged in the manufacture of harvesters.

Leaving Springfield in 1889, Mr. Nourse engaged in various pursuits till 1893, when he removed to Youngstown, Ohio. Here he took a position with the United Engineering and Foundry Company and remained for eleven years. In 1904 he removed to Rock Island to assume charge of the new plant of the Standard Oil Cloth Company, in which capacity he has met with unqualified success.

Mr. Nourse is one of the many workers who are too busy to hold public office. He has never taken an active part in politics beyond the exercise of the franchise. He affiliates with the Republican party. He united with the Masonic fraternity early and is now a member of Western Star Lodge, No. 21, Youngstown Chapter, No. 93, and St. John's Commandery, No. 20, all of Youngstown; and Kaaba Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Davenport, Iowa. He is also a member of Youngstown Council, No. 387, of the Royal Arcanum.

Mr. Nourse was united at Springfield in 1884 with Miss Rose J. Henry, and they have one son, Robert C., born in 1889.



JAMES B. TITTERINGTON



## JAMES B. TITTERINGTON.

A TYPICAL example of the virile manhood of Rock Island County is the subject of this sketch. Born in Buffalo Prairie Township, he resisted the lure of the city and of the great west to which so many of his boyhood companions yielded and set himself to the task of extracting wealth from the old home farm. After more than sixty years spent there he has now retired and is enjoying the fruits of his labors as a resident of the City of Rock Island.

Mr. Titterington is a descendant of one of the oldest and most honored families of the county. His father, James Titterington, senior, was born in 1809, in Yorkshire, England, and came to America with his parents when a lad of twelve years. The grandfather, Thomas Titterington, settled first in Ross County, Ohio, but after a few years removed to Rock Island County (in 1838) to make his home with his children, John, James, Moses and Charles, all now deceased. Before leaving Ohio the father of our subject was married to Miss Lena Beall, daughter of William Beall. Upon coming to Illinois he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Buffalo Prairie Township and devoted the remainder of his life to its cultivation and improvement. He died on the old homestead in 1876. His wife passed away in 1893.

James, the son, was born May 30, 1843, and was one of a family of six children, the others being: Mrs. David Bopes, now dead some years; Jane, widow of the late Robert S. Montgomery, and now of Rock Island; Mary E., who died at the age of fourteen years; William T., who died July 2, 1907, and Thomas, who passed away in infancy. James, when he reached manhood, settled upon the old home farm and eventually became its owner, buying out the other heirs. He added to the original two hundred acres till he had four hundred and forty acres of as fine soil for agricultural purposes as is to be found.

As may be imagined from his material prosperity, Mr. Titterington was industrious and enterprising. He was, in fact, one of the most progressive farmers of the community, and attained a high standing in the esteem of his fellow men besides. Stock feeding was his specialty, and he also dealt in live stock with success. He retired from the farm and became a resident of Rock Island in 1907.

Mr. Titterington cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and has since steadily supported the nominees of the Republican party. Locally he was accorded a considerable degree of political leadership and was honored by his party in various ways. He served four terms as member of the board of supervisors, and was highway commissioner for a number of years. Besides he often served as delegate to county and district conventions. Unlike many who leave the farm, Mr. Titterington did not delay his removal to the city till broken in health. He is still in full mental and physical vigor and the same qualities that won him high regard as a resident of Edgington are still daily making him new and firm friends.



## DAVID W. MATTHEWS.

DAVID W. MATTHEWS, supervisor of Black Hawk Township, president of the Black Hawk Good Roads Association, and farmer and stock raiser, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Mercer County March 22, 1854. His parents were Dr. James S. and Mary J. (Willson) Matthews, both natives of Pennsylvania, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. Matthews was born January 1, 1825, and his wife August 18, 1829. They were united in marriage in their native state and in the fall of 1853 removed to Mercer County, Illinois, and settled at Preemption. There Dr. Matthews took up the practice of medicine, which he had followed before coming west. In 1863 the family removed to the City of Rock Island and two

years later settled on a farm two miles south-west of Milan. There the doctor continued to practice medicine till his death, December 3, 1893. The widow still survives. To Dr. and Mrs. Matthews were born four children: Willson, Clarence (deceased), David W., and Wilhelmina (deceased).

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and agriculture has been his chief occupation. He received his education in the public schools of Rock Island and Milan. At the age of nineteen he began teaching school and followed that vocation continuously for thirteen years. Then he settled on the farm on which he has continuously made his home since.

Mr. Matthews, until 1888, was a Republican in politics, but at that time became a Democrat and has since affiliated with the latter party. In 1897 he was elected clerk of Black Hawk Township, and in 1898 he was chosen collector. In 1904 he was elected supervisor of Black Hawk Township, and was re-elected two years later. In 1904 and 1906 he was the choice of his party for congress in the Fourteenth district. In each case he reduced a normal Republican majority, the second time by sixty-five per cent.

Mr. Matthews is an energetic and public spirited man with a character above reproach. He has always taken an active interest in all movements for the betterment of the community. His activity in the good roads movement led to his being sent as delegate from the county to the State Good Roads convention at Springfield in 1904, from which place he was also sent as state delegate to the international Good Roads convention at St. Louis in the same year.

Mr. Matthews was married at Milan September 13, 1877, to Miss Mary M. Bradley. The latter was born in Milan September 5, 1855, the daughter of Nathaniel D. and Elizabeth (Dickson) Bradley. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews became the parents of three children: Elizabeth (deceased), C. Stanley and

Jessie D., both at home. Mr. Matthews is a gentleman in every sense and deservedly popular with all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. He is a member of the Mystic Workers of the World and Court of Honor. He and his wife are leading members of the Milan Presbyterian Church.

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## HENRY HOWLAND CHASE, M. D.

**H**OLDING in high estimate the duties and responsibilities which his position involved, and more than ordinarily successful as a medical practitioner surgeon, Dr. Henry H. Chase is well remembered in Rock Island, the city in which he spent the later years of his life. He was an American of the highest type, and of purest blood, as well. His lineage on both sides is traceable for many generations back on American soil. His mother is a direct descendant of John Howland of Mayflower fame. His father was a relative of the late Chief Justice Chase of the United States Supreme Court.

Henry Howland Chase was born October 7, 1858, in Amboy, Lee County, Illinois, and died May 22, 1906, at Rock Island. His father was Albion Pierce Chase, himself a physician, and his mother, Deborah Cushing (Howland) Chase. The father was a native of Maine and the mother of Massachusetts. The couple came west and located at Amboy, Illinois, in 1856, living there till the husband's death May 27, 1879. The father graduated in the School of Alapaphon, and after coming west took up the practice of Homeopathy, and has practiced in both schools after that.

Our subject received his general education in the public schools of Amboy, at a school for boys at Waltham, Massachusetts, and the State Normal at Bloomington, Illinois. His professional training was received at the Chicago Homeopathic College, from which he graduated in 1881.

Dr. Chase first began practicing at Geneseo, Illinois, where he was located eight years.







CHAS. McHUGH



Then he removed to Duluth, Minnesota, and remained seven years, becoming a member of the state medical examining board of Minnesota. In 1897 he purchased the practice of Dr. C. B. Kinyon, who left Rock Island to accept a chair in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor at Rock Island and took up his residence in that city, where he remained till his death. A few months before his demise he formed a partnership with Dr. E. Bradford.

Dr. Chase was an attendant of the Episcopal Church. In politics he was a Republican. He was active in fraternal work, being a member of the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, National Union, Modern Brotherhood of America, Woodmen of the World and Independent Order of Foresters. His surviving family consists of his wife and two children, the latter being John Albion, born August 30, 1888, and Katherine Trusdell, born May 22, 1892. The wife's maiden name was Adelaide Eugenia Trusdell, and she was married to the doctor December 5, 1882, at Dixon, Illinois. Her home prior to the marriage was at Newark, New Jersey, she being the daughter of John Givean and Catherine (Decker) Trusdell. The father was a leading Democrat and served as judge and state senator. He died July 14, 1903, his wife having passed away in March, 1858.

His father was chief surgeon of the Northern division of the Illinois Central Railroad from the time of his residence in Amboy until his death.



### CHARLES McHUGH.

**A**MONG those prominent in business, social and club life in the City of Rock Island, is Charles McHugh, a man who through persistent industry and commercial acumen has wrought for himself a successful career.

His parents were Thomas Edwin and Ellen (House) McHugh. His mother was born in

Syracuse, New York; his father was a native of Inniskillin, Ireland, but removed to this country, where the subject of this sketch was born September 3, 1863, at Syracuse, New York. Four years later his parents came west and located at Tiskilwa, in this State, where his mother is still living. Here their son received a common school education.

Mr. McHugh remained in Tiskilwa until 1881, when he came to Rock Island. Seeking employment, he obtained a position as bell-boy at the Harper House, the hotel of which he is today manager and associate proprietor, but which was then owned and managed by the late Benjamin Harper. As a bell-boy Mr. McHugh received the princely salary of ten dollars a month, but with a firm determination to deserve and to attain a higher position he paid diligent attention to his duties. This determination upon his part was rewarded by a promotion to a position as clerk in the hotel, which position he held until 1894 when he, together with J. E. Montrose, purchased the management of the hotel from the Harper estate. This required an investment on their part of \$35,000.

The investment was a financial success, and in 1898, desiring to enlarge the scope of their business, these gentlemen took over the National House, of Peoria, Illinois, the leading hotel of that city, at an expense of \$40,000. Again in 1903 they assumed control of the Rock Island House, expending \$22,000 in the remodeling and improvement of this hotel.

Success and prosperity attended each successive expansion of their business, and in 1906 they leased the Hotel Montrose at Cedar Rapids, Iowa—the furnishing of this hotel costing over \$45,000—and in turn this hotel was brought up to that standard of excellence that has characterized each of the other hostleries, and is considered by hotel experts the leading hotel west of Chicago.

From 1895 until 1900 Mr. McHugh was lessee of the Black Hawk's Watch Tower, and it was during this time that the present spacious and popular Watch Tower Inn was built, and made the popular resort of the three cities.

But Mr. McHugh's business talents are not wholly confined to the control and management of hotels. He owns a large ranch near Aberdeen, South Dakota, and a six hundred and forty-acre farm near Olney, Illinois, and to these he gives some share of his personal attention. He is also one of the directors of the Peoples National Bank of Rock Island.

Whatever pertains to the progress and advancement of the City of Rock Island finds a hearty supporter and sincere co-operator in Mr. McHugh. During the year 1904 he was president of the Rock Island Club, an institution devoted to the fostering of the commercial interests of the city. In politics Mr. McHugh is a Democrat, and takes an active part in the council's of his party.

His religious connection is with the Catholic Church.

On September 1, 1888, he was married to Mary Elizabeth Crubaugh, daughter of John and Sarah A. Crubaugh of Rock Island, and to the couple one daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, has been born.

Mr. McHugh owns a beautiful rural home on Aiken Street in South Rock Island, and here he and his family spend the summer months, interspersed with numerous cruises upon the Mississippi River and its tributaries upon his house boat, "The Rambler," and steamer, the "Mary Mc."

Coming to Rock Island a poor boy without friends or influence here to aid him, he has forged his way to the front and in a few brief years has become one of the substantial and influential men of the city. Foresight and industry have been the keys that have unlocked for him the door of success.

## NICHOLAI JUHL.

ONE of Rock Island's best known and most busily employed building contractors is Nicolai Juhl, the subject of this sketch. In the large and continuous building growth which Rock Island has undergone during the past few years, he has taken a conspicuous part, some of the largest and handsomest edifices that have been erected being his creation.

He was born March 3, 1853, in the province of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, his parents being Peter and Martha (Peterson) Juhl. Neither of Mr. Juhl's parents ever came to the United States, and both are now deceased.

Mr. Juhl's early education was obtained in the common schools of his native land, and later in evening schools in this country, to which he emigrated in 1873, being then twenty years of age. Upon landing in New York he looked about for an opportunity to establish himself in some useful employment, but soon came to the conclusion that a young man's chances were much better further west, and consequently he came to Rock Island, which city has since been his home.

Here he learned the carpentering and brick laying trades, and found plenty of employment, especially in the former trade. For sixteen years after coming to Rock Island he worked for one man, believing in and acting upon the old proverb that a rolling stone gathers no moss.

In 1890 Mr. Juhl began business on his own account as a contractor and builder, since which time he has made a specialty of building churches, of which he has erected about forty in different parts of the country.

On January 14, 1877, Mr. Juhl was joined in marriage to Miss Christina Lalfs, a young lady who was a native of the same town as Mr. Juhl, and who came to this country in 1875. To them five children have been born, they being Mary C., wife of Philip Scherer, of Rock Island; Herman C., now foreman in his



father's establishment; Amelia C. C., wife of John Cleman, of Rock Island; Nicholai M., employed by his father, and Otto, who is now attending the Rock Island High School.

In religious faith Mr. Juhl is a Lutheran, and for thirteen years he has been a trustee of the German Emanuel Lutheran Church of Rock Island. In politics he has always been a Republican, but while a strong adherent to his party he has always striven to vote for the man he considered best qualified to fill the office and to serve the people. He has never sought party office for himself, being too actively engaged in business pursuits to accept party favors.

Mr. Juhl is in every respect a self-made man. Coming to this country without money, he has, by frugality and industry, accumulated a modest fortune. He is a man of boundless energy and business foresight. The high grade and quality of his work is a monument to his skill and integrity as a contractor. He is one of Rock Island's best citizens, one of the stable, prosperous men that go to compose a stable and prosperous city.

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### GEORGE T. WILSON.

NOT alone to the men of daring initiative in the fields of manufacture and merchandising does Rock Island County owe its greatness in the world of commerce, but also to the mechanics whose unsurpassed skill and industry have contributed, in larger measure than we always realize, to our world-wide reputation for all that is best in our manifold lines of product. In the front ranks of these skilled artisans is Mr. George T. Wilson, the well known carriage iron worker, foreman of the blacksmithing department of the Velie Carriage Company. Mr. Wilson was born under Her Britannic Majesty's Flag, in the Province of Quebec, in October, 1839. Fifty-three years later, namely, 1892, he, with his wife, Mary E. and their two sons, Edgar H.,

a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this book, and Ross P., removed to Moline.

As foreman of the iron department of the D. M. Sechler Carriage Company, he continued for the period of seven years, when, his health declining, he resigned that charge and engaged in partnership with his elder son, Edgar H., in the grocery business, which the latter was conducting at the time, on Third Avenue, Moline. His health failed to improve and he was obliged to retire from this business also.

"Time heals all wounds" and often restores broken health, as happily was the case with Mr. Wilson, so that in October, 1902, he was able to once more take up his regular business, this time as foreman of the blacksmithing department of the Velie Carriage Company, where he is now engaged.

Mr. Wilson has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church from the days of his young manhood. He is a member of Doric Lodge, No. 319, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, and is regarded by judges as one of the best carriage iron workers in the state, and that means one of the best in the world.

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### CHARLES J. LARKIN.

THE City of Rock Island has several contractors and builders whose operations are upon a very extensive scale, and whose work is known, not only in the immediate vicinity of their home city, but throughout the entire western part of the United States, where they have been engaged to erect large public buildings, manufacturing plants, railway depots and other edifices requiring the expenditure of thousands of dollars. Among the men so engaged is Charles J. Larkin.

Mr. Larkin was born September 13, 1852, in Schenectady, New York, and lived in that city until he was four years of age, when his parents, Michael and Mary (Smith) Larkin,

came with their family to Rock Island. Mr. Larkin's parents were natives of Ireland, the father being from Galway and the mother from Athboy, County Meath. After coming to Rock Island, Mr. Larkin's parents made that city their home until their death, the father passing away in 1893 at the advanced age of seventy-five, and the mother six months later at the age of seventy-four. Mr. Larkin, senior, was a blacksmith, and during his lifetime he was of great assistance to his son in the contract work, in which he was actively engaged.

Charles J. Larkin attended and graduated from the public schools of Rock Island, and after laying aside his school books he learned the stone cutter's trade, beginning his work as an independent contractor when only twenty years of age. It would be impossible in this brief sketch to enumerate the many large and imposing structures that have been erected by Mr. Larkin. It was he who built Rock Island County's handsome Court House, and also the magnificent home of the Modern Woodmen of America in Rock Island. The eighty thousand dollar post office at Davenport is another public building that he was called upon to erect, while as a builder of magnificent churches Mr. Larkin can point with pride to the Catholic Cathedral at Des Moines, Iowa, for it was he who erected that great house of worship.

On October 20, 1873, Mr. Larkin married Miss Annie T. Ford, a daughter of William and Ann (Broderick) Ford, of Sheffield, Illinois. Eight children, four daughters and four sons, have been born to them, they being the Misses May, Katherine, Annie and Hattie, and Leo, Harry, Charles J. and Willard, all of the children making their home with their parents. Mr. Larkin's elder sons are engaged with him in his contracting operations. His daughters are cultivated and talented young ladies who have received many advantages, both in the schools of Rock Island and elsewhere. Miss Katherine Larkin is a reader

and impersonator of great ability and power, and frequently is heard before Tri-City audiences.

In politics Mr. Larkin has always been a Republican, and he has represented his home ward as Alderman for several terms during past years. He is always ready to contribute willingly and liberally either of his time or his money to his party's cause, and although not an office seeker himself, he gives his support to those in his party whom he considers best qualified to fill the offices to which they aspire.

His home is at No. 556 Elm Street, and here Mr. Larkin spends most of his leisure hours, as he is a man of domestic tastes, and finds much of his happiness in this life in the companionship of his family. He is a man of pleasing personality, kind-hearted, genial and always to be found in the forefront of any movement calculated to advance the welfare of his city. In religious conviction Mr. Larkin is a Catholic. He has many friends throughout Rock Island who speak highly of his high integrity and sterling worth.

#### HENRY B. HUBBARD.

THERE is no happier hour in the life of the conscientious and circumspect biographer than one which affords him the occasion for picturing in words the record of a virile, useful, energetic and honorable person. There is always a fascinating something about such a person, whether old or young, which forcibly appeals to the pen, and brings forth latent thought and effort which are too often permitted to be dormant-lethargic, as it were.

The mere conviction of a man's astuteness and sterling worth is all sufficient to inspire one with a desire to write endless pages of eulogies concerning him; but alas! the writer never did nor never will live who can fittingly portray the virtues, services and patriotism of an upright, thrifty and substantial citizen.

And so, in our simple way, with the advance knowledge that our language is wholly inadequate to suitably elucidate the many redeeming traits of our friend, but with the realization that our efforts will be appreciated in the same feleicitous spirit in which it is imparted, we summon the temerity to place before the reader Mr. Henry B. Hubbard, as he is, and has always been.

Mr. Hubbard is a product of the Buckeye State. He was born at New Matamoras, Ohio, September 30, 1863, being a son of W. A. and Anna Hubbard. His father was a native of Ohio, his mother, who before her marriage was Miss Anna Goldsmith, was also an Ohioan by birth.

In 1868, when Mr. Hubbard was five years of age, his parents migrated westward, arriving in Edgington Township, near Taylor Ridge. Henry B. Hubbard is an exemplary specimen of what an enterprising and practical man may accomplish. Up-to-date, well educated, of unusual business acumen and logical on all matters pertaining to his office and the people who have twice elected him, he does not hesitate to again go before his constituents and request approval of his acts and methods, and neither is he timorous in his solicitation of public sanction for his conduct of their affairs.

He was married in the year of 1888, his wife being Miss Etta Gemmill, of Shannon, Illinois. They have been blessed with three children, Clifford, Lois and Marian.

Mr. Hubbard is an active and earnest worker in the Mystic Shriners, Kaaba Temple of Davenport, and he is a member of long standing in the Modern Woodmen of America. He also is numbered among the Fraternal Tribunes and numerous other societies which are well and popularly known. He first attracted general public notice in the year of 1898, when he was elected County Clerk of Rock Island County by a plurality of about 1,800 votes over his opponent. Four

years later he was chosen his own successor, and was elected again in 1906, and the people have been given no reason upon which to base a complaint against his official stand-ardship since the hour he assumed the duties which fell to his lot.

Mr. Hubbard has been a hard worker all his life, and consequently has learned that labor is the only true nobility, whether one's efforts is confined to manual or official labor, or to the control of vast industries. A child of our free institutions, he is naturally of a companionable and pleasing disposition—a happy faculty, and a priceless asset to any man. He is one who sees things clearly, and acts with a celerity that is amazing when the question of equity is at stake. He has a comprehensive mind, a droll sense of humor that is pleasing to hear, and is with all a man of rank and file, a sincere believer in the doctrines expressed by Abraham Lincoln, is a patriot of the first water, and represents a true type of American manhood and sturdiness.

In the councils of his party, and in the minds of his adherents, Mr. Hubbard commands a position equal to that of any one. In the eye of the public, his re-election bespeaks the trust imposed in him.

Since his incumbence the office of the County Clerk has undergone many changes which are of material benefit to taxpayers and the public generally. Old systems have been simplified, red tape has become a non-entity, and practical methods of business in the interest of speed and convenience have superceded ancient and out-of-date routine.

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## HERBERT B. HAYDEN.

**H**ERBERT B. HAYDEN, Superintendent of City Schools of Rock Island, is a native of Massachusetts. He was educated in the graded and high schools of his native state, and at Wesleyan University. Since 1883 he has been engaged in public

school work, either as high school principal or superintendent of city schools, and has been in charge of the schools of Rock Island since August, 1900.

### CHARLES J. SEARLE.

**A**N ATTORNEY whose marked ability has been repeatedly recognized not only in Rock Island County, by whose Bar Association he has, at the time this sketch is written, recently been honored by the election as its president, but throughout the State of Illinois, is Charles J. Searle, of Rock Island. A biographical sketch of a man so well and widely known, seems almost superfluous, for there are but few in Rock Island County, and indeed in this section of Illinois, who do not enjoy a personal acquaintance with the gentleman himself. And were these sketches written and published merely for the perusal of the present generation many of them would be indeed unnecessary, but the compilation of a work of this kind is undertaken with the thought that it will be an enduring memorial to those the records of whose lives are herein inscribed, and while to the living it may recount no fact that was before to them unknown yet to posterity it will possess an ever increasing value as the conscientious gleanings of facts in the lives of men who have long since been gathered unto their fathers.

Charles J. Searle was born at Fort Smith, Arkansas, May 16, 1865, his parents being Colonel Elhanan J. (recently deceased) and Cassie R. (Pierce) Searle. Six children were born to this couple, but only two are living, Charles J. and Blanche Searle, both of Rock Island. Mr. Searle's parents made their home in Fort Smith for about three years after his birth, and then removed to Arkadelphia in the same state, and from there to Little Rock. Our subject attended the public schools and later, when his parents came north, he attended the high school at Pana, in this

state. Finishing his high school course, Mr. Searle went to Marshall County, Kansas, and here he improved a farm, later teaching school for a term. He attended the Campbell Normal University at Holton, Kansas, for one year, showing such diligence and application as a student that he carried off the class honors. The young man was obliged to depend upon his own resources, and in order to acquire an education it was necessary that he should earn the money with which to pay for his tuition and defray his expenses while attending school. At the end of his year at the Normal University, he found it necessary to again assume the role of pedagogue in order to accumulate enough funds to continue his education, so he again taught another term of school, this time in Brown County, Kansas. Then, having decided to study law, Mr. Searle entered the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, and here for two years he pursued a law course. In this school also he showed marked ability and took the highest honors of his class, both during his junior and senior years. After graduating, Mr. Searle cast about for a location in which to practice his newly acquired profession. The result of this quest was that he finally decided upon Rock Island, and in that city he opened an office August 12, 1889. He soon learned by experience that the acquiring of a clientele was not a speedy process, and in common with nearly all young lawyers he, in the course of that evolution which every attorney must undergo, successfully passed through the "starvation stage." While waiting for clients, he devoted his time assiduously to study and reading along professional lines, this supplementing the legal training he had received while at Iowa City. But his ability was so marked, especially as an advocate, that it made such an impression, not only upon the general public, but upon his fellow members of the bar as well, that he speedily got into practice, and in 1892 was elected States Attorney of Rock Island



C. J. SEARLE





County, upon the Republican ticket. He was a vigorous and successful prosecutor, and at the expiration of his four years term he was re-elected and served another term in that office. During his administration he secured a large number of convictions, and in the fulfillment of that office gave general satisfaction to the people. In 1898 he was appointed by Governor Tanner as trustee of the Western Illinois State Normal School, which was then about to be located and built, the board of trustees having the selection of the site, it was decided to locate the new institution at Macomb. Mr. Searle was chosen as president of the board and devoted much time to the duties involved in the supervision of the erection of an institution of such magnitude; after the institution was completed and fully and successfully started, he resigned. In 1904 he was appointed by Richard Yates, junior, then Governor of Illinois, as a member of the Court of Claims, this office carrying with it the rank and title of Judge. It is the duty of this Court, consisting of three Judges and sitting at Springfield, to consider and adjudicate all disputed claims arising against the State of Illinois, and its many institutions. This office Mr. Searle still holds. Both the latter offices were conferred on Mr. Searle entirely without solicitation on his part.

On April 7, 1898, Mr. Searle married Miss Mary Pryce, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Pryce, of Coal Valley, this County. Miss Pryce at the time of her marriage living in Racine, Wisconsin, where she was engaged as a teacher in the public schools of that city. To them have been born three children, two boys and a girl.

Politically Mr. Searle has always been a Republican and has been, and is, a political power, not merely in Rock Island County, but his prestige has been generally recognized throughout Illinois, and especially this part of the State. He has twice been presented to the Congressional Districts embracing Rock

Island County, by Rock Island County as its candidate for Congress. He has labored diligently and efficiently for the success of his party at the polls; and as a powerful speaker upon political and economic subjects he is constantly in demand. He is in thorough sympathy with the spirit of determination for corporate regulation that is sweeping over the country, and indeed has been a pioneer in that cause and for years past has, both in political speeches and in private conversation, portrayed the dangers that threatened the welfare and prosperity of the American citizen through the unrestrained formation of vast monopolies. His Republicanism is of the type of that of Roosevelt, LaFollette and Cummins, and is opposed to that of Aldrich and Elkins.

A vigorous and virile man, an astute and discerning attorney and a gifted orator, Mr. Searle embodies in his personality those qualities that command the respect, the approval and the regard of humanity. He is a man unusually independent in thought and speech, without the slightest vestige of self-conceit, easy of approach and of broad sympathy; truly a "man of the people."

In 1899 Mr. Searle entered into partnership with C. B. Marshall, forming the legal firm of Searle & Marshall. The partnership was an advantageous one for both gentlemen, bringing into conjunction the brilliant powers as an advocate possessed by Mr. Searle and the more tranquil and studious nature of Mr. Marshall. The firm has prospered and is today one of the leading law firms in Rock Island County.

But little remains to be said in conclusion. The life, the character, and the political principles of Charles J. Searle have been faithfully delineated. The reader can judge for himself what manner of man he is. He has obtained and retained the confidence of his fellow men, and not merely their confidence but their warm regard as well; a man whose thoughts, whose acts and whose

principles expressed in speech and deed are his best and truest biography



### GUY V. PETTIT.

**I**N none of the walks of life, perhaps, does the personality of the man impress itself so thoroughly upon the public with which he deals as in the case of the editor of a country newspaper. While he does not reach the thousands that the editor of a metropolitan daily does, he offsets this disadvantage through the close personal relations he sustains with his patrons and thereby his position in the community is rendered the more difficult of the two to maintain. While the head of the news gathering department of a big paper may strike right and left with but small chance of offending any considerable portion of his clientele, the scribe of the country weekly must exercise care and tact, for his financial success requires the support of at least half of the people of his territory. Therefore the trenchant pen is not his to wield. He must attain his ends by other means.

A successful country editor is Guy V. Pettit of the *Reynolds Press*—a man who has the rare gift of being able to give expression to his own ideas of right and wrong and still retain the personal friendship of practically every individual who reads his newspaper.

Mr. Pettit was born July 17, 1868, seven miles south of Geneseo, on a farm in Henry County, Illinois. He is a son of Charles E. and Ellen M. Pettit, and dates his ancestry on American soil well back into the seventeenth century. His paternal grandparents were Pennsylvanians and his maternal grandparents New Yorkers. His father was a private in Company E, Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was private secretary to General U. S. Grant at Cairo in 1862. His mother was educated at Lombard University, Galesburg.

Mr. Pettit attended country school till fifteen years of age, when he became a student

at Northwestern Normal at Geneseo. After pursuing a scientific and literary course there for three years he turned his attention to pedagogy. He began teaching school at the age of seventeen, and so well did he do his work that when he had barely attained his majority he was called upon to act as principal of the schools at Hampton, Rock Island County. Here he taught two years, going, in August, 1889, to Reynolds, to accept the principalship of the schools there. At the end of three years he accepted a similar position at Brimfield, Peoria County, where he remained two years.

In January, 1897, Mr. Pettit purchased the *Reynolds Press*, taking personal charge July 1 following, and conducting it successfully up to the present time.

Mr. Pettit has found time to take an interest in village affairs, having for three years filled the office of village clerk, and subsequently served two terms as president of the board of trustees, retiring in 1895. Politically he has always been a Republican.

Patriotic and fraternal societies have engaged much of Mr. Pettit's attention. He is a past captain in the Sons of Veterans, past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias, has been consul of the Reynolds Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America for eight years, holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is affiliated with the various branches of the Masonic order.

Mr. Pettit was united in marriage June 19, 1890, with Miss Jennie Repine, of Galesburg, Illinois, formerly of Pennsylvania. They have two sons, Royce Edgar, born May 5, 1895, and Clyde Earl, born April 19, 1902.



### DR. LOUIS OSTROM.

**D**R. LOUIS OSTROM, A. B. M. D., was born in Helsingland, Sweden, May 1, 1874, and came to America when six years old. His father is a pipe-organ builder,

known among hundreds of churches all over the country. Young Ostrom attended public schools, and as soon as he was able to work, was at one time or another employed during vacations in nearly all the shops of Moline. After becoming a student of Augustana College, he worked during the different vacations as section hand on the street car line, printer in a job office, and pressman to the Moline Daily *Dispatch*, etc. While a student, he also studied music under Dr. Gustav Stolpe; was director of the band, orchestra, and mandolin clubs, cornetist, and later clarinetist with the Sixth Regiment Band, Illinois National Guard, of Moline, and Strasser's Second Regiment Band of Davenport, Iowa. He also took active part in all college athletics, being a member of both base ball and foot ball teams. He graduated from Augustana College in 1895, in the English classical course, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During the summer before graduation he was assistant organist to Dr. Stolpe in the Moline Lutheran Church, and after graduation was at Moore's Prairie, Minnesota, as organist and music teacher. While there he received a call from Augustana College to become professor of wind and stringed instruments in the Conservatory of Music, but declined because of intended medical study. He studied medicine at the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, where he earned his way through by playing with orchestras and in churches, caring for a doctor's office for his room rent, and earning his board by serving as waiter at a restaurant until the end of his course. After leaving Iowa City, he was employed by the State Hospital at Independence, Iowa, but wishing to continue his medical studies, he resigned and went to St. Louis to the Missouri Medical College and Polyclinic. During his medical studies he paid most particular attention to the eye and ear, but after his course at St. Louis, located in 1899 at Leonardville, Kansas, and engaged in general practice.

While there, he received a call from the Kansas Medical College at Topeka, Kansas, to the Chair of Chemistry, and as director of the Chemical laboratories, a position he held for one year, but as this interfered with private practice, he resigned and located in Rock Island, Illinois, as a specialist, devoting all his professional attention to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In the spring term of 1903 he was acting professor of Botany at Augustana College, during the absence of Professor J. A. Udden, and later was professor in anatomy, physiology, histology and the pre-medical department. While doing post graduate work at New York, was professor of Natural History at Upsala College, Kenilworth, New Jersey. Dr. Ostrom is adjunct to St. Anthony's Hospital and examiner for more than a dozen insurance companies. Since his graduation in medicine, he has taken post graduate courses with some of the most noted specialists in America.

In the Spring of 1907, Dr. Ostrom was elected alderman of the Seventh Ward.

In 1899 Dr. Ostrom was married to Miss Sophia Hult, formerly secretary to the business manager of Augustana College. They have one child, Meredith.



#### MRS. MARY FAY HAWES.

MRS. MARY FAY HAWES, wife of Major Charles W. Hawes, and a member of the board of supreme managers of the Royal Neighbors of America, is an admirable type of the purposeful woman of the day. She proves in her own person that the American woman may exert a powerful influence in the enlargement of woman's sphere without loss to any of the attributes of true womanhood.

Mrs. Hawes was born in Fulton, Illinois, July 22, 1866, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Fay, and the eldest of a family of nine

children, all living at this date. She graduated from high school in May, 1883, and spent the following two years in the Northern Illinois College at Fulton.

In 1887 Mrs. Hawes, then Miss Fay, engaged in a clerical capacity with the Modern Woodmen of America, the head offices of which were at that time located at Fulton. She continued with the Society for several years, a valued attache of the head office, and thus met Major Hawes, who was elected head clerk of the Society in 1890. Her marriage to Major Hawes on December 25, 1894, marked her retirement from the Woodmen Society's employ; but shortly thereafter, having been actively identified with the Royal Neighbors of America, the ladies auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America, she was chosen as one of its board of supreme managers. She has been re-elected at each succeeding national convention since January, 1895, and her present term expires in May, 1908.

Mrs. Hawes, in American fraternal circles, is widely known; indeed, is one of that circle of able women who have pioneered the woman's fraternal movement to its present commanding place. She is a pleasing speaker, a thorough student of the system she serves officially, and of its life insurance features, and is in great demand as a lecturer.

Mrs. Hawes is an earnest member of the Broadway Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, and very active in its Sunday School work. Her ideal home life with husband and son, John Marcus Hawes, her work in the church and as an official of the Royal Neighbors of America, the leading fraternal beneficiary association for women, demonstrates her character and capacity, and as well the fact that, while womanly and true to the mission of the sex, the American woman may, with honor, engage in activities outside the home circle, but making for the protection of the home.

## WILLIAM H. BEAN.

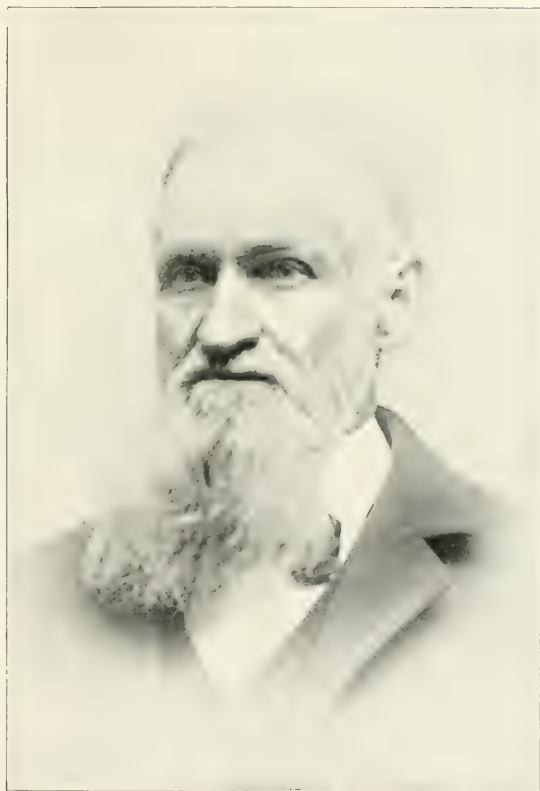
RAPIDLY the ranks of those who took active part in the Civil War are thinning.

One after another the gray haired veterans are going to join their comrades in a land where bloodshed and suffering are unknown. Few of the defenders of the flag in the sixties are now left who are able to hold their own in the keen struggle of present day commercial life. Physical infirmities, have with few exceptions long since compelled the great majority of the survivors to drop out of the race. Yet here and there are exceptions. Now and then a sturdy old warrior is found whose eye is as bright and whose step is as firm as that of the younger generation and who yet finds keen enjoyment in a struggle in which he is pitted against the sons and the grandsons of his comrades of other days.

Such a man is William H. Bean, the pioneer merchant of Rock Island. Though whitened by sixty-five winters he continues in active charge of the grocery store he established thirty-two years ago. He has not fallen behind in the rapid march of American progress.

Mr. Bean was born at St. Louis, Missouri, February 10, 1842, the son of J. L. and Marilla (Smith) Bean. His father was a native of Palmyra, New York, being born January 8, 1814, and died March 28, 1890, in Rock Island. His mother was born in Parkman, Ohio, May 24, 1818, and died May 1, 1898, in Rock Island. The parents were married September 24, 1838, at Parkman, Ohio, and came to Rock Island for permanent residence when their son was two months of age. Mr. Bean, the elder, was a contractor and builder and followed this vocation for a number of years. Then he engaged in the manufacture of wagons. He was a member of the City Council in the early days. When Ben Harper was mayor, and served the City of Rock Island in several capacities. He was the father (while in the council) of the first street opened in the City—Ninth Street,





J. L. BEAN.





FRANK B. HAWES



running north and south. In the early sixties he hauled freight by oxteams to Pike's Peak. From 1870 till his death he lived a retired life. Three children, other than the subject of this sketch, were born to the couple: Louis H. M. Bean, born October 10, 1839, and died January 15, 1861, at Black Hawk Mills, Pike's Peak, Colorado; John Liberty Bean, junior, born October 21, 1843, and now living at LaPlata, Missouri, and Marilla Jane Bean, born January 26, 1846, and now the wife of W. L. Minchen, living at Seattle, Washington.

Our subject attended the public schools and the Rock Island high school. He left the latter to become salesman in a general store in 1860. Then came the call to arms, and August 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and served till July 12, 1865, when he was mustered out and returned to Rock Island. He then resumed his place in the store and remained there two years. Later he spent three years on a farm, and in 1875 he opened the grocery store he now owns at 1201 Third Avenue.

November 25, 1880, Mr. Bean was united in marriage with Mrs. Sarah A. Cameron, a native of Scotland, but for sixteen years prior to her union with Mr. Bean a resident of Rock Island. Their wedded life has been childless.

Mr. Bean has always been a Republican, but has not actively engaged in politics. He has not been a seeker after the spectacular but has kept the even tenor of his way. He has been content with the ordinary rewards of a quiet and well ordered life and thus it is that we find him today one of the few of his generation who are still able to continue the routine of daily business.

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### FRANK B. HAWES.

**F**RANK B. HAWES, son of David Hawes and brother of Major Charles W. Hawes, was born in the City of Rock Island on November 14, 1844. (See biographies David

Hawes and Major Charles W. Hawes). Since April 13, 1891, the subject of this sketch has been prominently connected with the head offices of the Modern Woodmen of America. For years he was the society's statistician, but of late years he has discharged the responsible duties of chief of the final accounting department. He has supervision over the most important set of accounts maintained by the Modern Woodmen Society—the financial. It is naturally to be inferred that Mr. Hawes possesses superior ability as an accountant and mathematician.

Prior to the establishment of his connection with the Modern Woodmen Society, Mr. Hawes was for twenty-one years the cashier of the E. P. Reynolds & Company railroad contracting firm. During the period 1860-1890, inclusive, this firm built thousands of miles of western railroad, and Mr. Hawes as cashier, handled millions of dollars without the loss of a single cent.

In 1875 Mr. Hawes was united in wedlock to Miss Elizabeth A. Rector, of Walworth, Wisconsin. One son, David R., a graduate of the Illinois School of Dentistry, University of Illinois, is the fruit of this union. Mr. Hawes is recognized as one of Rock Island's most progressive citizens. He is active in his support of all policies and measures making for the betterment of Rock Island and the country at large. In national politics, he has always been an ardent and influential supporter of Republican principles. With his family, he resides in a well-appointed home at 718 Seventeenth Street.

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### CHARLES TITTERINGTON

**F**OR sixty-seven years Charles Titterington lived on the farm in Edgington Township that he entered from the Government. His children grew to manhood and womanhood, married, grandchildren came and attained maturity, and still this doughty pioneer was tilling the soil of the old home



place made dear to him by decades of association. He came to Rock Island County in 1835, and at once selected and purchased from the Government the fertile acres that were his abiding place for so long a period.

Charles Titterington was born in the parish of Worley, West Yorkshire, England, January 22, 1814. His father, Thomas Titterington, came to America three months after the birth of Charles, and he died February 26, 1857. The mother died in England a short time after his birth. At the time of his death, July 13, 1902, the subject of this sketch was the last survivor of a family of six sons, the others being: John, born September 4, 1795, and died in 1855; Thomas, born July 22, 1806, and died September 7, 1823; James, born November 2, 1807, and died June 5, 1876; Moses, born September 28, 1810, and died February 24, 1890, and Eli, born April 20, 1812, and died September 20, 1825.

When Charles was scarcely beyond the age of infancy the family removed to Ross County, Ohio. There he attended the public schools and from there, on attaining his majority, he came to Rock Island County, and settled on the farm in Edginton Township. December 20, 1838, he married Sophia Eberhart, daughter of Charles Eberhart, the wife passing away September 11, 1898. Of the eight children born to the couple all save the youngest survive, the family being as follows. Thomas, born October 29, 1839; Charles, born August 2, 1841; Anna Eliza (Benjamin), born July 14, 1843; Maria Elizabeth (Lloyd), born March 26, 1846; Milton, born March 24, 1848; Frederick, born September 1, 1852; David, born June 7, 1855, and Emma Louisa (Kret-singer), born August 23, 1860.

Mr. Titterington was an active Methodist, being long connected with the Zion Church of Edginton, built in 1854, and demolished in 1906. He was a staunch Republican from the time of organization of that party. He held various township offices, including that of supervisor from Edginton.

## FRED TITTERINGTON.

Few men are sufficiently versatile to successfully pursue two separate and entirely different vocations during their lives. Rare, indeed, is the farmer that becomes a dividend earning manufacturer, especially after he has attained middle age, and become a man of substance through his own efforts in tilling the soil. Such, however, has been the achievement of Fred Titterington, formerly a farmer in the vicinity of Edginton postoffice and now secretary and general manager of the Argillo works at Carbon Cliff.

Mr. Titterington is another native of Rock Island County, having been born at Edginton September 1, 1852. He was the son of Charles and Sophia Titterington, pioneers of the community. His early education was that of the average farmer boy, save that he had the additional advantage of a course at Knox Academy at Galesburg, Illinois. Until he was nineteen years of age he worked on his father's farm and then he set out for himself, and for a number of years tilled the soil on the present site of the village of Reynolds. Later he farmed in Buffalo Prairie Township and eventually purchased a tract of land in Edginton Township, which was his home till 1899.

Always a more or less active Republican, he was rewarded by his party by election to the offices of treasurer of Rock Island County in 1894, serving one term of four years, during which time the present Court House was erected. Upon retiring from this service of the county he disposed of his farm interests and became connected with the Argillo Works, manufacturing clay products, and was chosen secretary and manager. Under his direction the company has prospered, the plant has been expanded and the business put on a basis that insures continued success.

Mr. Titterington, in addition to having served as county treasurer, has held various



O. FREDERICK ANDERSON.



township offices as well as that of supervisor from Buffalo Prairie. He became a member of the Edgington Presbyterian Church at the age of fifteen, and upon removing to Rock Island in 1899, to take up manufacturing, united with the Broadway Presbyterian Church. He served as an elder in both churches. Mr. Titterington is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Globe.

September 1, 1874, the subject of this sketch was married, his bride being Harriet Edgington, daughter of John and Susan Edgington, of Buffalo Prairie. She passed away September 1, 1887, leaving three children: Susan E., Minnie G., and Forest H. Mr. Titterington later married Rose Powers, daughter of Z. D. and Elizabeth Powers, a native of Edgington. Two children, Beryl and Adria, were the issue of the second union.



### H. W. C. TAPPENDORF.

IN other articles appearing in this work frequent mention has been made of the astounding growth Rock Island has undergone during the past few years, and of the many new buildings, especially residences, that have been erected during that time. All, or nearly all, of the contracts that have been let for these have been placed with the city's home contractors, one of the most prominent of whom is H. W. C. Tappendorf.

He was born July 4, 1862, at Provence, Holstein, Germany, the home of his parents, John T. and Hannah Tappendorf. He attended the public schools of his native town during his boyhood, and upon the completion of his school days he took up and mastered the carpenter's trade in that thorough and systematic manner for which Germans are renowned.

In 1886 he came to America and located in Davenport, Iowa, where for two years he worked at his trade as a journeyman carpenter. In 1888 he came to Rock Island, and

here he continued to work as a journeyman in the employ of others until 1896, when by his industry and frugality he had accumulated sufficient money to start as an independent contractor in a small way. In this he was successful, the growth of his business being steady and continuous until it has reached its present proportions.

Although a general contractor, Mr. Tappendorf has specialized along the line of church building, and has been called upon to erect some of the largest church edifices in the country. He now does a business averaging about \$100,000 a year, a splendid record for a man who started in life with the sole assets of a determined spirit and a willingness to work, showing, as it does, that these are the really essential elements in a successful career.

Mr. Tappendorf was married November 8, 1892, to Miss Freda Smith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Smith, of Davenport. Their marriage has been blessed with four children, Harry W., Mathew, Walter and Helen, all of whom are at home.

In politics Mr. Tappendorf was formerly a Democrat. Now, however, he owns no party allegiance, but gives his support and his vote to whichever candidate or whichever measure he believes to be best. He is a member of Rock Island Lodge, No. 18, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In this brief biographical sketch are told the essential facts in the career of H. W. C. Tappendorf, the story of a life which woven into the warp and woof of our citizenship makes its texture firmer, stronger and brighter.



### O. FREDERICK ANDERSON.

ONE of Moline's progressive and popular citizens, who, by his own unaided efforts and individual worth, has gone forward step by step until he now holds the position of cashier in one of that City's

leading banks, is O. Frederick Anderson, a man who merits the respect and regard of all who know him.

He was born in Trehorna, Sweden, July 1, 1866, the home of his parents, Alfred Anderson and Ama Greta (Johansdotter) Anderson, the former of whom died January 25, 1881, and the latter is still living. October 27, 1868, Mr. Anderson, with his parents, came to America, and coming West, located in Moline. Here their son attended the public schools, and after completing the grammar department left the Moline schools to attend the Davenport Business College, from which he graduated. He began his business career at the early age of seventeen, when he accepted a position as collection clerk in the Moline National Bank. Conscientious and faithful in his duties, his rise was rapid, until today he is cashier of the Moline Trust and Savings Bank, being elected to that position in July, 1900, having formerly filled the position as teller of that bank.

On December 16, 1891, he married Miss Sena Nielsen, a Moline young lady. Her father, Peter Nielsen, was a native of Denmark, and her mother Nellie Nielsen, of Sweden. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen are living, and make their home in Moline. To Mr. Anderson and his wife one son, Frederick Nielsen Anderson, was born December 4, 1903.

In politics Mr. Anderson is a staunch Republican, and three times he has been honored by his party by being elected City Treasurer of Moline. Each time he received large majorities, and the strength of the vote he polled is a striking indication of the confidence his fellow citizens reposed in him. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Moline Public Library continuously since June 22, 1895, and in 1904 was elected president of that body, a position that he now holds.

Mr. Anderson has always taken a deep interest in civic matters. He is a member of the Moline Club, of which he has been a

director and vice-president. He is a prominent Mason, and has been master of Doric Lodge, No. 319, of Moline. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows and Red Men. He was one of the founders of the Rock Island County Historical Society, and has been its treasurer since its inception. He is a public spirited citizen that his city can be proud of.



### MISS MYRTLE E. DADE.

BY her work as beneficiary recorder of the Royal Neighbors of America, the woman's auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen of America, the largest fraternal insurance society in the world, Miss Myrtle E. Dade has shown herself a woman of rare business and executive ability. A quality no less rare, she has demonstrated her ability to efficiently supervise a considerable body of women without friction and in a manner which has accomplished wonderful results. So systematically has the work in her offices been handled that other similar societies have paid her the compliment of adopting many of the devices which she originated and first put in use in the beneficiary department of the Royal Neighbors, the headquarters of which is at Rock Island.

Miss Dade was born in Fulton, Whiteside County, Illinois, which was the early home of the Woodmen Society. She was the daughter of Rufus E. Dade and Elizabeth R. Dade, and was one of a family of four children. Her father was a shoe dealer at Fulton and one of the leading citizens of the place. He enlisted in the Civil War in the Fifth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company F, September 10, 1861, and served till October 27, 1864. He participated with Grant's command in some of the hardest battles of the war, being wounded at the Wilderness. June 6, 1866, he re-enlisted in the Forty-third Veteran Reserve Corps and performed duty two years as an artificer with the rank of



noncommissioned officer, being stationed at Fort Mackinac. Mr. Dade was married in 1871 to Elizabeth R. Webb. He served as mayor of Fulton and held other offices of trust.

Miss Dade was educated in the Fulton public schools, graduating from the high school in 1899. Prior to that she had completed a course in stenography at the Northern Illinois College. She early took up drawing as a pastime, and being gifted with a taste for art and unusual natural ability, she was successful to a marked degree. Her accomplishments were further broadened during a year spent at a musical academy for girls at Chicago, which she attended while in quest of health after she had taken up the work of her life with the Modern Woodmen.

Miss Dade became connected with the Woodmen at Fulton in the Summer of 1890, being permanently employed in November of that year by A. F. Morrison, then head clerk. She was retained by Major C. W. Hawes, who was elected head clerk at the succeeding head camp. Various minor positions were held in the head office, experience being gained in all lines of the work. Shortly after returning from a year's absence, deemed necessary on account of temporarily impaired health, Miss Dade, in April, 1895, was asked to assist Mrs. Mary Fay Hawes, who was then beneficiary recorder of the Royal Neighbors of America. At the end of two months the duties of the office fell entirely upon her shoulders. Late in the Summer of 1905 she was appointed beneficiary recorder, which office she has held ever since, being reappointed after each supreme camp by the beneficiary committee. At the head camp, held at Peoria, Illinois, in May, 1908, the social and beneficiary departments were consolidated, the headquarters being located at Rock Island. Miss Dade was elected supreme recorder.

At the time the subject of this sketch took charge of the department, fraternal insurance, especially for women, was just emerging from infancy, and crudeness characterized the

system of conducting the business. It remained for Miss Dade to introduce order and system, and this she did in a manner that attracted much attention in the fraternal world. One of her triumphs was the introduction of the card system of membership record. This was done in 1899, and has been the means of saving the society great expense. The society now has a beneficiary membership of 128,000, which is carefully taken care of by a force of thirty competent young ladies, and the office has the reputation of doing business promptly. The work has been rendered the more difficult because of the fact that office room is limited and great economy must be exercised in the disposition of the records, office force and furniture. The whole soul of the beneficiary recorder has, however, been in her work, and she has spared neither time nor pains in her efforts to attain perfection.

Miss Dade became a resident of Rock Island in 1897, when the headquarters of the Modern Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors was removed to that city from Fulton. She united with the Presbyterian Church at Fulton and became a member of the Broadway Presbyterian Church in Rock Island.

#### VIRGIL MARION BLANDING.

VIRGIL MARION BLANDING was born December 8, 1827, at Grenell Mills (now Aldenville), Wayne County, Pennsylvania, and died March 3, 1907. His father, Reba Blanding, was one of the original proprietors of Grenell Mills, but spent his later years on his farm nearby. His mother was Beulah Ann Grenell. Both branches of the family were of Huguenot stock; the known line of descent on the father's side running from William Blanding, who emigrated to America and settled in Boston in 1640, where he soon after became "selectman."

His four great grandfathers, Noah Blanding, John Martin, Michael Grenell and Elijah

Marshall, were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, the last named being a member of Arnold's expedition against Quebec and one of the first inside the enemies works. He was wounded, made a prisoner and exchanged, and afterwards fought under General Wayne at Stony Point, continuing on active duty until the close of the war, from which he emerged with the honorable record of a brave, faithful and gallant patriot. The maternal great grandfather, Michael Grenell, was participant in the battle of Saratoga, and in that engagement distinguished himself by his courage and devotion.

Mr. Blanding received a thorough common school education, and after courses in several academies entered Bucknell University at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, the leading Baptist collegiate institution of the State, from which he graduated in 1852 as valedictorian of his class, with degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later he received from his Alma Mater the degree of Master of Arts.

After graduation he started to read law, but shortly after was made cashier of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which position he resigned because of failing health, and came West, arriving in Rock Island July 4, 1856. He resumed the study of law under Judge Ira O. Wilkinson, and in 1858 was admitted to practice. He was appointed City Attorney of Rock Island about this time and served several terms; was also elected in 1858 County Superintendent of Schools. He was twice a candidate for County Judge on the Democratic ticket; though defeated, his vote cut down the regular Republican majority six or eight hundred votes each time, thereby demonstrating his personal strength and standing.

In 1862 Mr. Blanding went to St. Louis and entered into law partnership with M. L. Gray. While he was here he enlisted in the militia of the State of Missouri and was honorably discharged on account of sickness; re-enlisted in Company A, St. Louis National Guards.

In connection with this it is interesting to observe that nearly every member of the Company, both officers and privates, was a member of the bar.

After the close of the Civil War Mr. Blanding returned to Rock Island to practice law, until 1868, when he engaged in bridge and railway construction, which business he continued to follow to the end of his active business career.

In politics Mr. Blanding was a Democrat. He was elected Mayor of Rock Island in 1888 and his record as an accomplished parliamentarian and impartial presiding officer has never been excelled in the history of the City.

Mr. Blanding was closely identified with Masonry since 1855, at which time he was made a Master Mason at Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He has been Worshipful Master of Trio Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; High Priest of Barrett Chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons; and when Everts Commandery, No. 18, Knights Templar was organized at Rock Island, he was honored with the highest position in the gift of its members, serving as Eminent Commander; was also District Deputy Grand Master under Grand Master DeWitt C. Cregier of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois; was also Grand Orator of Illinois Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the year 1901.

Mr. Blanding was married in 1863 to Anna McNeil, who was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. They have two children, Lowrie C. and Marion J. Blanding.

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## HON. GEORGE W. VINTON.

IT IS a pleasure for the writer to take up the career of men who, through long years of residence in Rock Island County, have by their upright lives and splendid deeds won for themselves the enduring respect and regard of their fellow citizens. In this class the Honorable George W. Vinton stands prominent.

He was born at Middlebury, Vermont, December 5, 1834. His father was John A. Vinton, who served as a drummer boy during the War of 1812. After the close of that war the father received from the United States Government a tract of land for his services. The elder Vinton was a good father, and gave his son splendid advantages for that early day. At the age of fifteen years George W. Vinton graduated from the Randolph Academy in his native State. Here he was a class-mate of the late Judge Austin Adams, a former Judge of the Iowa Supreme Court.

After his graduation from the Academy he was engaged in teaching for six terms. Tiring, however, of the life of a pedagogue, in 1855 he went west, settling in what was then the Territory of Minnesota. Here he learned the carpenter's trade. In the fall of the same year he came to Moline, where he took the contract to build the Riverside Academy. Afterward he entered the employ of his uncle, John Deere, and remained with the firm until 1885. The scope of his employment necessitated his travelling from ocean to ocean establishing agencies to absorb the output of Mr. Deere's constantly expanding business. For fifteen years he was also a stockholder and director in the firm.

In 1875 Mr. Vinton removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he erected the Buffington Wheel Company's works. He owned a considerable interest in this industry for some time. In 1887 he returned to Moline.

In political conviction Mr. Vinton was for a number of years one of the leading Republicans of Illinois. At one time he was that party's candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. However, when Horace Greeley was a candidate for President of the United States Mr. Vinton gave his support to the Democratic party, and this latter party has been the one of his choice ever since.

While a resident of Burlington he served as Alderman for four years. He was for many years chairman of the old Town Board of

Moline, and was also president of the School Board. In 1892 Mr. Vinton was elected a member of the Illinois State Legislature. He received a majority of more than seven thousand, although the district he represented had always been strongly Republican. While a member of the Legislature he was chairman of the following important committees: Public charities, State institutions, and militia. During the session in which he was one of the representatives from this district, he introduced a bill for the establishment of a hospital for the insane, that would be located west of the Illinois River. This bill passed, and the asylum was located at Watertown in this County. He also introduced a bill appropriating one million dollars to the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. By the terms of the bill introduced by Mr. Vinton, nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this amount was to be used in the general expense fund, and fifty thousand dollars was for the erection of the Woman's Building. The State Board of Agriculture selected Mr. Vinton as manager of the Illinois Building during the Exposition. Afterward he was for a long time deputy collector of internal revenue for the Peoria District.

In his fraternal allegiance Mr. Vinton is connected with the Masonic Order and the Knights of Pythias.

During his long residence in Rock Island County he has won and merited the regard and esteem of his fellow citizens. As a public official he was always intrepid in performing his duty as he saw it, and his public career was one of unblemished integrity, as was his private life.



#### DR. CHARLES CRAWFORD CARTER.

NO VOCATION in life offers opportunity for greater genuine service to mankind than that of doctor of medicine, and the physician who fully appreciates his

responsibilities and conscientiously responds to every call made upon him is a public benefactor in the highest sense of the term. There can be no question as to the reward that will be his in the after life.

Such a man was Charles Crawford Carter, one of the best known and most generally beloved medical practitioners who ever ministered to the ills of the people of Rock Island County. Purity of mind, lofty ideals, and unselfish devotion to the welfare of others were manifested strikingly throughout the quarter of a century he practiced his profession in Rock Island and surrounding country, and in return he was esteemed and loved by all with whom he came in contact. Characteristic disregard of his own physical welfare where the needs of others were involved was manifested in the last act of his life, when he contracted septic pneumonia, which quickly claimed him, while ministering to a patient.

Dr. Carter was born in San Francisco December 20, 1852, and died April 2, 1904, after an illness of one week. His parents were Elijah and Ann Maria Whitney Carter, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Massachusetts, and of puritan ancestry. The father was among those who braved the terrors of Cape Horn in '49 to seek the golden harvest of the Pacific slope, returning a few years later to make his permanent home in Rock Island. He was prominently identified with the business life of the young city on the banks of the Mississippi. He served a term as mayor, was later superintendent of the Rock Island Glass Works, and for a number of years held the office of gauger. His marriage to Ann Maria Whitney took place in 1851. He died January 14, 1887, and his wife followed March 14, 1888.

After receiving a common school and academic training at Rock Island the son, in 1873, went to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where he began the study of medicine under Dr. James Orne Whitney, a physician who

stood high in his profession. In the year 1876 Dr. Carter graduated with high honors from Bellevue Medical College, of New York. Ten years later he took a post-graduate course in the metropolis. At the time of his demise he had practiced twenty-eight years in Rock Island. At first he was associated with the late Dr. Calvin Truesdale. Then, for a time, he practiced alone. Eventually he formed a business alliance with Dr. C. Bernhardt and Dr. G. G. Craig, Sr., which held until his death.

Dr. Carter was a member of the American Medical Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Illinois State Medical Society, Illinois Association of Military Surgeons, Illinois and Iowa Central District Medical Society, and of the Rock Island County Medical Society, being vice-president of the last named at the time of his death.

He had many times served as delegate to the State and National bodies to which he belonged. He had for twenty years been surgeon for the Illinois National Guard, attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, with ranked as Assistant Surgeon General of Illinois. He was also a member of the medical and surgical staff of St. Anthony's hospital.

Aside from his profession Dr. Carter was a faithful member of Trinity Episcopal Church, serving at one time as vestryman; he was elected to membership in the board of education; was a charter member and director of the Rock Island Club, and was affiliated with a number of fraternal organizations.

#### FRANK H. KELLY.

FRANK H. KELLY, one of the younger members of the Rock Island County bar, is a native and a lifelong resident of the city in which he now practices his profession. He was born in Rock Island, February 8, 1870, the son of P. H. and Ellen Kelly. After completing a course in the public

schools and then attending high school, he chose a career before the bar and began the study of law in the University of Michigan Law School, from which he graduated in 1891. The following year, February 1, 1892, he began practicing and has been actively engaged ever since.

Mr. Kelly was appointed Master in Chancery in February, 1904, and served one term of two years. In March, 1906, he was appointed assistant State's Attorney, and holds that office at present, he and J. K. Scott, State's Attorney, dividing the duties of an unusually active administration.

Mr. Kelly's spiritual affiliations are Catholic. Politically he is a Republican and has devoted much time and met with considerable success in furthering the interests of his party. Fraternally, he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Modern Woodmen of America, Court of Honor, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Mystic Workers. Personally, he is unassuming, of easy address, and popular among all classes to an unusual degree.

June 5, 1895, Mr. Kelly married Anna A. Slattery, of Davenport, Iowa, and the union has been blessed with two daughters, Mary E., and Anna V., both living.



### CARL O. BERNHARDI, M. D.

IT IS seldom that a young physician entering upon the practice of his profession achieves instantaneous and striking success. The path that leads to a large and lucrative practice is in nearly every case a weary and a tortuous one. But to all rules there are exceptions. The young physician whose life we are to discuss in this sketch, Doctor Carl O. Bernhardt, although one of the younger of Rock Island County's physicians, has, nevertheless, in the few brief years that he has practiced his calling, attained an eminence that places him well in the van as a prominent and successful member of the medical profession.

He was born January 3, 1880, his parents being Dr. Carl and Mrs. Zoe Julia Bernhardt. A sketch of the life of Dr. Carl Bernhardt appears upon another page of this volume. Dr. Carl O. Bernhardt's early education was obtained in the Rock Island German School, the Rock Island Public School and the High School. After graduating from this latter institution he entered the University of Illinois, where he pursued a specially selected course adapted as a preliminary to the medical course which he intended to follow later. Upon the completion of his course in the University of Illinois he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago in 1898, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1902. After his graduation he served as house physician for two years in the Presbyterian Hospital at Chicago. This experience was a most valuable one, enabling the young physician to observe many and varied medical and surgical cases, as well as to come in contact with some of the most skilled and prominent physicians and surgeons in the United States, and to note their methods of diagnosis and treatment in difficult and baffling cases.

In 1904 Dr. Bernhardt entered the medical field at Rock Island, where his father had been in practice for many years. As has been said, his success here was instantaneous and complete. Being naturally endowed with a genial nature and agreeable manners he made hosts of friends and the extent of his practice rapidly increased. He is the attending physician for the Old Ladies' Home, recently established here.

In politics Dr. Bernhardt follows in the steps of his father, and gives his allegiance to the platform and principles of the Republican party. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Rock Island Lodge of Elks, Illinois State Medical Society, Rock Island County Medical Society and the Iowa and Illinois District Medical Society. He is a learned and skillful physician, and a young



man in every way entitled to the admiration and respect of all who know him.

### CARL BERNHARDI, M. D.

ONE of Rock Island's long established physicians who has achieved an enviable reputation in his profession, and who is held in high personal regard by all who know him, is Doctor Carl Bernhardt.

He was born September 10, 1843, in the City of Koenigsberg, East Prussia, Germany. Here he spent his boyhood, receiving his preliminary education in the schools and colleges of his native city, and finally entered the medical department of the University of Koenigsberg in 1863. He continued his medical course in this university until the Autumn of 1866, when he went to the University of Berlin. From this latter institution he graduated one year later, August 15, 1867.

Previous to his graduation Doctor Bernhardt served as a volunteer surgeon during the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866. He was present at the battles of Nathod and Skalit, which occurred June 27 and 28 of that year, and also the battle of Koenigsraetz, which occurred July 3. He was discharged at the close of the war which terminated September 3, 1866. He remained in Germany until March, 1869, when he came to the United States, going immediately to old friends at St. Louis. While there he learned that there was an opening for a German physician at Rock Island and consequently decided to locate here. He arrived in Rock Island on April 22, 1869, and has ever since been one of this city's successful physicians and highly respected citizens.

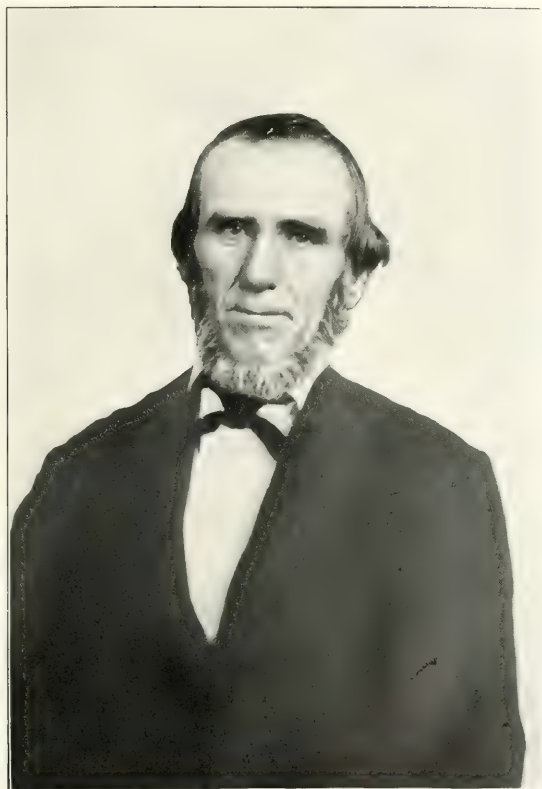
On October 10, 1873, occurred the nuptials of Doctor Bernhardt and Miss Zoe Olshausen, daughter of Dr. J. J. Olshausen, of Davenport, Iowa. Doctor Olshausen had formerly practiced medicine in St. Louis, and in that city Miss Olshausen was born. To Doctor

Bernhardt and his wife four children have been born: Claire Marie, married October 10, 1898, to Doctor Alfred Schalek, then assistant professor of dermatology at Rush Medical College in Chicago. Doctor Schalek is now professor of dermatology in the medical department of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Doctor and Mrs. Schalek have one daughter, Zoe Carola, about six years of age; Anne Ottilie, married June 3, 1903, to H. Woodworth Clum, of Washington, District of Columbia. Mr. Clum has for some time been engaged in newspaper work, and is at present secretary of the board of trade of Trenton, New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Clum have two children, Elizabeth Anne, aged three years, and Carl Bernie, aged eight months; Doctor Carl Oscar Bernhardt, a sketch of whose life is given elsewhere in this work and Miss Zoe Julie Bernhardt at home.

In politics Doctor Bernhardt has always been a Republican, and is prominently identified with that party locally, for although the many demands of his professional calling left him but little time to devote to active political work, yet he was always ready to assist his party in any manner that lay in his power. He was twice appointed a member of the public library board; was elected a member of the board of education for a three years term in the early nineties, and was County Physician for several years.

Doctor Bernhardt is a member of the medical staff of St. Anthony's Hospital in Rock Island, and an honorary member of the staff of Mercy Hospital at Davenport, Iowa. He has also been a member of the American Medical Association since 1888, and of the Illinois State Medical Society since 1872. He was the first president of the Rock Island County Medical Society, and is a member of the Iowa and Illinois District Medical Society.

For years Doctor Bernhardt was an active member of the Rock Island Turner Society. He is now an honorary member of that organization. He is ex-president of the former



WILLIAM McENTIRY



German-English School Society, and a charter member of Germania Lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a charter member of Camp No. 309, Modern Woodmen of America, and of Home Tribunal, No. 1, Fraternal Tribunes. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having passed through the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, and is a member of Kaaba Temple of the Order of the Mystic Shrine at Davenport, Iowa. He also belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

So widely known is Doctor Bernhardt that it seems indeed unnecessary to even attempt a delineation of the character of the man. The collective opinion of those to whom he has ministered in sickness and who know his kind and gentle ways in the sick room, and his untiring efforts to alleviate suffering and to combat disease, is the best tribute that can be paid him.



### WILLIAM McENIRY

**W**ILLIAM McENIRY, one of the early settlers of the County of Rock Island, was born in Charlevill, County Cork, Ireland, a village near the line of County Limerick, on February 15, 1817, where he received his education and where he was engaged in mercantile business two years prior to his departure for America which was in April 1840, having heard much of the United States from an uncle who at that time lived in Albany, New York, he concluded to pay a visit to his uncle, and in company with his eldest sister, departed for America, arriving in New York City on a sailing vessel, steam vessels not being in use. He proceeded up the Hudson River on a steamboat to the City of Albany, and while visiting with his uncle he learned much of the country west of the Hudson River along the Erie Canal which had recently been opened to navigation. He decided to take a trip up the canal to Syracuse, and while there formed the

acquaintance of John White, brother of the late Spencer White of Moline, who induced him to take charge of the office of a brick factory he was operating. In the Spring of 1841 John White's father and mother were desirous of coming to Peoria, Illinois, to make their home with a daughter in that city. John White induced him to take the old couple by team from Syracuse to Peoria, driving across the country. After reaching Peoria the old people desired to send a letter to their son, Spencer White, who was in Moline, and he volunteered to bring the letter to Moline, walking over in two days. He was ambitious to see the Mississippi River and took advantage of this opportunity to arrive at its banks. When he arrived in Moline Spencer White, having heard of him from his brother John White of Syracuse, induced him to join with him in the manufacturing of brick, which he did, expecting all the time, however, to sooner or later return to his home in Ireland, but the longer he remained in Moline the more he became attached to the country, and finally decided to cast his lot with the early settlers of this community and as a result enlarged the brick business and acquired considerable real estate in Moline, Rock Island and Davenport. After being in Moline five years, the Summer of 1846 he returned to Ireland to pay a visit to his family, and before returning to America, in the Spring of 1847, he was married to Elizabeth Coughlin, and after relating to his brothers the wonderful opportunities there were in this country and the liberties guaranteed by the Government, three of them and another sister decided to come to America with him and his bride, arriving in Moline in the Summer of 1847, crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel taking the better part of a month to reach New York (steam vessels still not being used to cross the Atlantic), traveling up the Hudson River to Albany by boat and from Albany to Buffalo by canal, and from Buffalo to Chicago by Lake

vessel, and by stage from Chicago to Galena, and down the Mississippi River by boat from Galena to Rock Island. He continued in the manufacturing of brick in Moline, and dealing in real estate, till 1853 when he decided to go farming and bought the Gorton farm on the banks of Rock River in Zuma Township, where he was engaged in extensive farming and stock raising up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 18th day of February, 1874. He left surviving him his widow and six children: Mrs. T. T. Dwyer, of St. Louis; M. F. McEniry, of Lenox, Iowa; John, Matthew and Mary McEniry, of Moline; and Honorable William McEniry, of Rock Island. After his death his wife remained on the farm with the family, giving them all a collegiate education, and when the last of the children decided to leave the farm she removed to Moline in 1893, her former home, where she lived until the time of her death, the 30th of May, 1907.

Mr. McEniry was the first English speaking Roman Catholic to reside in the County of Rock Island, and his wife was the first Roman Catholic lady who resided in Moline, and the first Mass celebrated in Moline was celebrated in his house by Father Pelemoreus, resident priest of Davenport, Iowa, in July, 1847.

On arriving in this country he affiliated with the Democratic party, the principles of that party of equal rights for all and special privileges for none appealed to his idea of government, the principles of government he advocated in Ireland and for which the Irish people had demanded from the English Government for centuries. Although a firm believer in the principles of his party he was adverse to holding a public office.

He belonged particularly to that class of men who were possessed of courage and determination and who built up the Great West and did so much to leave the magnificent heritage which is now enjoyed by the present generation.

## WILLIAM H. MARSHALL.

THE combination of human attributes which yields success in many fields, though a rare one, is embodied in the subject of this review. The drug business, manufacturing, stock raising, what ever he has turned his hand to, has given a balance on the right side of the ledger, so carefully has he studied and so well has he wrought.

William H. Marshall was born April 23, 1851, in Warren County, Indiana. He was the youngest of eleven children, five of whom are still living. His father was Edward P. Marshall and his mother Ann (Kellam) Marshall, both being natives of Pennsylvania, and of Quaker ancestry and belief. The parents in the early forties settled in Indiana, where the father followed farming and stock raising till 1854, when he removed to Vermillion, Illinois, where he died in 1857. His mother having passed away in 1852, our subject was thrown upon his own resources at an unusually early age. His education was obtained in the common schools, and at the age of twenty he obtained a place in a drug store at Rossville, Illinois. Here he remained two years, rapidly mastering the details of the business. Leaving Rossville he located at Shipman, Illinois, and there soon found a friend who made it possible for Mr. Marshall to start in business for himself. Success smiled upon him from the beginning, and at the end of five years he sold out and came to Rock Island in search of wider opportunities. This was in April, 1880. He bought the Harper House Pharmacy, which he conducted twenty-two years, retiring in 1902 to be able to give more attention to his other interests. These include holdings in a number of Rock Island manufacturing concerns by which he has been honored with important offices, and tracts of land in Rock Island County and in Oklahoma.

Mr. Marshall, September 3, 1893, was united in marriage with Miss Elise Augusta





WILLIAM H. MARSHALL.



Denkmann, daughter of Frederick C. A. and Catherine Denkmann, of Rock Island. Two children have blessed their union. Robert Denkmann Marshall and Ann Catherine Marshall.

Mr. Marshall, while he has never taken an active part in politics, is a subscriber to the doctrines of the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a Mason.

### JOHN W. PARKER.

AMONG the younger business men of Rock Island County few have demonstrated their ability in as many different fields as has John W. Parker. City bred, and trained originally for commercial pursuits, he has been successful alike in trade, manufacturing, politics and even agriculture. In addition, he has through his own efforts, secured a liberal education, including a fair knowledge of law, although dependent upon his own resources since the age of sixteen.

Mr. Parker was born November 1, 1870, at Henry, Illinois, the son of Samuel and Anna Parker. His father was a native of Ohio and his mother was born in Ireland of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He attended the grammar and high schools of Chicago before going to work at the age of sixteen as stockkeeper for the Western Electric Company. He advanced rapidly, becoming timekeeper, paymaster, assistant cashier and purchasing agent, finally resigning after six years to engage in the real estate business. Two years later he took up the study of law in the offices of William E. Mason, at the same time being employed as teacher in the Chicago public night schools. During Mr. Mason's successful campaign for the United States Senate Mr. Parker was his secretary and active political lieutenant, acquiring in this way an intimate acquaintance with the leading men of the State.

In 1896 Mr. Parker was appointed assistant City Sealer for Chicago, serving two years

and until his appointment as assistant Secretary of the State Board of Charities by Governor Tanner. This office he resigned to accept the chief clerkship of the Western Hospital for the Insane at Watertown. After four years service there he resigned and became general manager of the Tri-City Pasteurized Milk Company, for whom he planned and developed the large dairy farm in Black Hawk Township. In 1905 he purchased an interest in the Rock Island Skirt Company, becoming manager of that concern, although continuing as secretary and director of the Milk Company until January 1, 1907, when his connection with it ceased. Mr. Parker is also actively engaged in local timber operations, owning several tracts of standing timber in the County.

From his father, who is one of the oldest newspaper writers in the State and a life-long Republican, Mr. Parker inherited an interest in public matters which has manifested itself in his active work in politics. This has been more than local, his counsel carrying weight among the State leaders. He has been secretary of the Illinois League of Republican Clubs and later president of that organization, also having been one of the executive committee of the National Republican League.

Mr. Parker, during his residence in Rock Island, has been active in almost every movement for public good. Several years ago his personal efforts brought the then Secretary of War, Elihu Root, to inspect the Arsenal, resulting in greatly increased appropriations for the small arms plant. Mr. Parker was also one of the committee of fifty which raised the \$100,000 factory fund, and is a director of that organization. Fraternally, he affiliates with the Masons and Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Parker married Sarah Nichols June 23, 1906, at Chicago. They have but one child, Samuel.

## WILLIAM COYNE, SENIOR.

ROCK ISLAND County owes much to its Irish sons. They have tilled its soil, built up, developed and directed its industries, and are today among its most substantial and energetic citizens. In no case is the obligation more real than in that of William Coyne, senior, "Uncle Billy," as he is popularly known. He was one of the earliest comers to this locality from Erin's Isle, and after more than sixty-two years residence here is still a man of remarkable activity. He has been one of the county's heaviest land holders, and though he has turned the greater portion of his estate over to his children he still directs the cultivation of a small farm and continues to actively look after his other business interests.

William Coyne, senior, is a native of Ireland, born June 11, 1822, the son of Thomas and Martha (Brown) Coyne. His parents were Irish and the father died in that country when the son was young. The mother late in life came to America and spent her last days among her children, dying in Rock Island about 1887. There were six children: Mariah, Margaret, Matilda, Jane, William and Robert. Jane died in the mother country, but the others all became citizens of the United States. William is now the sole survivor of the family.

Our subject was reared a farmer and has followed that vocation practically all his life. He received but a limited education, but in later life found time to remedy the defects of his early training and become thoroughly posted, both in relation to business affairs and in a general way. He sailed for America in 1845 on the sailing vessel "Liverpool," which was eighteen weeks traversing the Atlantic. Mr. Coyne reached Rock Island June 11 of that year with just one shilling in his pocket. Being accompanied by a friend named James McCabe, who desired to go to Galena but needed funds, our subject loaned

his last shilling, and, penniless, went to work at a brickyard in Moline for thirteen dollars per month, his employer being William McEniry. At the close of the season Mr. Coyne returned to Rock Island purchased a horse and dray, with which he earned a livelihood in Rock Island and Davenport for a couple of years. During this time he hauled mail from the postoffice to the boats, which were then the principal carriers in this vicinity.

Mr. Coyne next became a farmer, purchasing and settling upon eighty acres of land in Bowling Township. On this old homestead he lived till the Spring of 1901, when he removed to the place on which he now resides in Black Hawk Township, two miles south of Milan. Beginning as a farmer with small capital, Mr. Coyne's energy, progressiveness and economy soon won him substantial rewards. As his fortune grew he invested in real estate, becoming in time one of the most well-to-do citizens of the community. At one time he owned 1,700 acres of land in Rock Island County, besides six hundred and forty acres in South Dakota, two hundred and forty acres in Nebraska and one hundred and sixty acres in Kansas. In late years, however, he has given all his land to his children with the exception of the eighty acres upon which he now lives.

Mr. Coyne has been thrice married. His first union was with Miss Elizabeth McKee, December 26, 1855. One child was born to this union, but died in infancy. The mother did not long survive. The second marriage was with Miss Margaret Morrison, July 4, 1860. She was a native of Ireland and came to America with her parents in early womanhood. Eight children resulted from the second union, as follows: William T., born June 16, 1861; Elizabeth J., born June 14, 1863; Alexander W., born March 15, 1866; James, born November 19, 1867; Lydia A., born February 22, 1869; Julia A., born June 19, 1870; Edward S., born October 25, 1873;

and Francis, born March 8, 1876. The mother of this family died in November, 1886. June 3, 1901, Mr. Coyne married Mrs. Bessie Foster.

Mr. Coyne is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Milan. He has steadily espoused the cause of the Republican party and taken an active interest in the affairs of that organization, though he has never sought political favors.

### JAMES COYNE.

THE man whose name appears at the head of this sketch is known as one of the most industrious and enterprising farmers of Bowling Township, where he was born and has spent all his life. He first opened his eyes upon this world November 19, 1867, his parents being William and Margaret (Morrison) Coyne. He attended the public schools of the County, and February 18, 1896, was married to Miss Eliza A. Bauer. The latter is also a native of Bowling. She was born September 3, 1869, the daughter of Jacob and Mary (McDonald) Bauer. Her mother was a native of Ireland and her father a native of Germany, they being born in 1845 and 1821 respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Bauer were among the early settlers of the County. They were married here in 1868, and immediately took up their residence on the farm they still occupy. Their children are, Eliza A., Emma J., Mary E., and Sarah A., besides a son who died in infancy.

Mr. Coyne after his marriage began the cultivation of a farm in Black Hawk Township. In January, 1907, he removed to the place he now occupies. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Black Hawk and one hundred and twenty acres adjoining in Bowling. In his methods he is practical and at the same time thoroughly up-to-date. He makes a specialty of breeding improved Chester White hogs, Short Horn

cattle and fine horses. Mr. and Mrs. Coyne are the parents of one child, Elizabeth A., born February 21, 1897.

### WILLIAM T. COYNE.

WILLIAM T. COYNE is one of the enterprising and up-to-date agriculturists of Rural Township, Rock Island County, and a member of one of the pioneer families. He is a native son of the County, having been born in Bowling Township June 16, 1861. He is a son of William and Margaret (Morrison) Coyne. Born on the farm, he has always followed that vocation. With a limited schooling he, by study and close observation, has gained through his own efforts a ready fund of general information, as well as a good working capital of special knowledge of use to him in his business. He was married in Rural Township March 8, 1893, to Miss Carrie M. Griffith. The latter was born in Rock Island January 23, 1870, the daughter of Elwood and Carrie E. (Baulch) Griffith, now of Rural.

After his marriage Mr. Coyne settled on the farm he now occupies in Rural. The land at that time was badly run down and poorly improved, but by hard work and the application of advanced methods of agriculture he has brought the land to a high state of cultivation, and now owns two hundred and forty acres of the best producing ground in the vicinity, as well as one of the most comfortable homes.

In his political views Mr. Coyne is a staunch Republican. He stands high in the community as a citizen and neighbor, being best liked by those who know him best.

### ALEXANDER W. COYNE.

THAT farming in Rock Island County is a profitable occupation is attested by the subject of this sketch, who, though in business for himself but a few years, is now



the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of well improved land in section eleven, Bowling Township. He was born in the same Township, the son of William and Margaret (Morrison) Coyne, March 15, 1866. After the usual schooling of the country boy and the practical preparation for life on the farm, he married March 27, 1901, Miss Nora S. Doonan, of Mercer County, Illinois. The latter is the daughter of James R., and Bessie Doonan, and was born in Mercer County October 30, 1876. Mr. Coyne after his marriage settled on the farm he now occupies, and has cultivated it since with unvarying success. He and his worthy wife are the parents of one son, Everett D., born March 13, 1905. Mr. Coyne is an ardent Republican. He has served two terms as Township Tax Collector.

#### FRANCIS COYNE.

ONE of the prosperous young farmers of Rock Island County is Francis Coyne, son of William and Margaret (Morrison) Coyne. He was born in Bowling Township, where he now resides, March 8, 1876. He received a common school education in the County and started out for himself in 1902, following his marriage, when he established himself on the old homestead. In the Fall of 1904 he removed to the farm he now occupies. He now owns two hundred and twenty acres of well improved land and is considered one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens of the County.

Mr. Coyne's marriage to Miss Theresa M. Koch took place in Rock Island County February 5, 1902. His wife is the daughter of Rudolph and Ella (Collins) Koch, and was born in the County September 22, 1884. Her parents are residents of Bowling Township. The father is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born at Erie June 2, 1859. The mother was born at Dixon, Illinois, May 17, 1862. They were married at Rock Island August

15, 1883, and are the parents of three children, Theresa M., Raymond G. and Sylvia E.

#### EDWARD S. COYNE.

A WELL known native son of Rock Island County is Edward S. Coyne, son of William and Margaret (Morrison) Coyne. He was born on the old homestead in Bowling Township, on which he now resides, October 25, 1873. Tilling the soil has been his sole occupation. In the Spring of 1896, he settled on one of his father's farms in section eleven, Bowling, where he resided till the Spring of 1900. Then he removed to the farm he now occupies in section one, same township. He now owns two hundred and sixty acres of good land, which he cultivates with much success.

Mr. Coyne was married in Rock Island December 23, 1895, his wife being Miss Margaret J. Clark, daughter of William and Eliza (Gauley) Clark, early pioneers of the community. The parents are natives of Ireland, who took up their residence in Rock Island County soon after their marriage. The children born to them are: Robert A. and Sarah E., both deceased; David B., Lydia A., William A., James H. and Margaret J., the last named being born in Bowling February 23, 1876.

Mr. and Mrs. Coyne are the parents of five children: Florence M., born May 21, 1897; Raymond D., born April 26, 1898; Edward R., born July 22, 1900; Mildred E., born March 31, 1902; and Ethel L., born July 26, 1905.

#### WARNER L. EDDY, M. D.

ONE of the successful medical practitioners of Rock Island County is the subject of this review, who for fifteen years has followed his profession at Milan with a steadily increasing business. Dr. Eddy is a native

of the Empire State, having been born in Madison County, New York, December 17, 1869. He is a son of Homer and Edith S. (Townsend) Eddy. His father was born in Madison County, New York, May 22, 1842, and his mother in Cape May County, New Jersey, May 17, 1846. The parents were married in New Jersey, and after a residence of several years in New York settled permanently on a farm in Cape May County, New Jersey, where they still reside. They are the parents of three children, Lucien C., Arthur and Warner L., of whom this sketch treats. The last named grew to manhood on the farm, obtaining his education in the public schools and under a private tutor. In 1887 he began reading medicine under the instruction of Doctor Julius Way of Cape May Court House, New Jersey. Two years later he took up a regular course at Rush Medical College at Chicago, graduating in March, 1892. After a few months spent in Chicago he came to Milan and has since followed his profession there.

Dr. Eddy was married April 5, 1893, to Miss Alice V. Fellows, the ceremony being performed in Chicago. Mrs. Eddy is the daughter of Jonathan H. and Charlotte A. (Rich) Fellows. She was born July 13, 1865, at Arlington Heights, Illinois. Two children have been born to the couple: Allen T., May 7, 1895, and Edith L., May 5, 1900. Doctor Eddy is a member of the Rock Island County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church of Milan.



### PETER F. TRENKENSCHUH

BORN in Rock Island in 1875, the above named gentleman, young though he is, has, by persistency and application to his chosen vocation, forged to the front until he is now one of the best known and capable contractors and builders in the City. Many

structures throughout the City attest his mastery of the building trade, and the several large contracts which he now has on hand indicate that his ability and workmanship are fully appreciated.

Mr. Trenkenschuh is a son of Phillip and Elizabeth Trenkenschuh, who were of German descent. In 1902 he married Louise M. Nold, of Rock Island, and the fruit of this union was: Paul, born 1903, and Florence, born 1905.

Mr. Trenkenschuh received a common school education, supplemented by a course at the Davenport Commercial College. He began his trade when but sixteen years of age, and he tenaciously clung to it until his present success has rewarded him. He is a member of Rock Island Lodge, No. 658, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Rock Island Chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons. In politics he is a Republican, and was at one time alderman from the Third Ward. During his entire business and political activity he has been esteemed for his integrity, his progressiveness and alertness, and for his generous and congenial disposition.



### ROBERT J. MONTGOMERY

ROBERT J. MONTGOMERY, the Moline manufacturer, was born May 20, 1864, on a farm near Orion, Henry County, Illinois. His parents were Alexander E. and Margaret Montgomery. When but eight years of age the family removed and took up residence on Rock Island Arsenal, where the son grew to manhood. After completing a course in the Moline public schools our subject learned the tinner's trade at Rock Island Arsenal, but being ambitious to enter business for himself, he formed a partnership with his brothers to operate a machine shop. Under the firm name of Montgomery Brothers. This was done in 1891. Two years later the concern was consolidated with the Moline

Elevator Company, and Mr. Montgomery has been actively connected with this firm since. He has had charge of the outside construction of the company and as superintendent of the erection of elevators, operating in nearly every city of any size in the United States and Canada. In addition to his holdings in this particular factory Mr. Montgomery was one of those interested in the Deere-Clark Motor Car Company, and holds stock in the Moline Automobile Company, Root & Vandervoort Engineering Company, and the American Harvester Company. He has also extensive land holdings at Alberta, Canada.

In politics Mr. Montgomery is a Republican. He joined the United Presbyterian Church of Rock Island in 1883 and transferred his membership to the Moline Church when the latter was formed in 1898.

Our subject married, October 24, 1893, Lillie R. Matthews, the nuptials being celebrated at McPherson, Kansas. Mrs. Montgomery was the daughter of Samuel and Rose Matthews, pioneer settlers of Scott County, Iowa. They lived on a large farm near Davenport, when the father's ill health compelled his retirement, and eventually the removal of the family to McPherson, where he died in April, 1894, three years after leaving Scott County. Mrs. Matthews came from McPherson two years ago to live in Moline. Mrs. Montgomery was educated in the Davenport public schools, graduating from the high school. She has borne her husband two children: Royal Ewert, aged eleven, and Margaret Rose, aged nine years.

#### ALEXANDER OWENS.

JUNE 17, 1830, near Belfast, Ireland, the subject of this sketch was born. He was the son of Archibald and Mary (McMaster) Owens, both lifelong residents of the Emerald Isle. Their children were Jane, Mary, Alex-

ander, Margaret, Anna, William and Jennie, all of whom became citizens of the United States, and all of whom, with the exception of Jennie and the subject of this review, are now deceased. Alexander came to America when but sixteen years of age and settled at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. There he earned the carpenter's trade, which he has followed the greater part of his life. At Pittsburg, October 15, 1852, he married Miss Helen Wyman, a native of New York, born January 31, 1834. She was the daughter of Moses C. and Ann (Lamb) Wyman. A year after his marriage Mr. Owens removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he followed his trade for three years, at the end of that time becoming a resident of Rock Island, Illinois. In the Spring of 1857 he settled in the Village of Milan, then a thriving young manufacturing place, and has made this his home since, with the exception of two years spent in California.

After coming to Milan Mr. Owens engaged extensively as a builder and contractor, operating in Rock Island, Mercer and Henry Counties. In 1891 he was appointed master carpenter on the western section of the Illinois and Mississippi Canal, which was begun at that time. Mr. Owens first had charge of the carpenter work on the locks and gates and of the erection of the houses on the western part of the canal. When this work was done he was appointed overseer for this part of the waterway, and he has held this position ever since, serving with great success.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens became the parents of seven children: Anna L., William A. (deceased), Charles C., Jennie, Helen, Elizabeth B., and Emma A. Mr. Owens is a Republican and has been honored with various offices. He served as supervisor of Black Hawk Township two terms and as president of the Milan Village Board eight terms. He is a Mason and he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian Church.



SAMUEL S. GUYER.





## HON. SAMUEL S. GUYER.

THE HONORABLE SAMUEL S. GUYER was born at Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

December 26, 1814. In his early manhood he was a contractor in New York City and in the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal System. In 1839, with his mother, sister and two brothers, he removed to Peoria, Illinois, from which base he engaged in the business of building flat boats and carrying cargos of merchandise to trade with the planters between Natchez and New Orleans. In the great tornado at Natchez in 1842, he lost all his possessions and barely escaped with his life. Returning to Peoria he studied law and qualified for the bar in the office of Mr. Knowlton, father of our former townsman, William S. Knowlton. In 1843 he came to Rock Island to practice his profession.

He was appointed by the Court to defend the Redings, indicted for complicity in the murder of George Davenport, and he succeeded in securing their acquittal. In 1847 he was elected Sheriff of Rock Island County, which office he held for two terms.

He was one of the incorporators of the Coal Valley Mining Company, and of the Rock Island and Peoria Railway Company, which road, then built only as far as Coal Valley, was under his management until 1861 when he sold his interests to the late P. L. Cable. In this enterprise he had been associated with Charles Buford, Holmes Hakes, N. B. Buford and Ben Harper.

He secured the charter for the Chippianock Cemetery Association, of which he was a director until his death.

After disposing of his mining and railroad interests he became a member of the firm of Hakes, Guyer & Company, in the operation of a paper mill on the present site of the Standard Oil Cloth Company. This mill was several years afterwards bought by Mr. Hakes and moved to Rock River.

In 1871 he was elected Judge of the County Court and re-elected in 1873.

He was married June 3 1847, to Annette Holmes, daughter of the late George E. Holmes, of Port Byron, who, together with his son, Edward H. Guyer, and his daughter, Annette, now Mrs. James R. Kimball, survived him.

He died at Rock Island, February 20, 1883.

## FREDERICK C. LIEKEFETT.

BORN in Germany and brought to America by his parents at a tender age, the subject of this sketch is one of the many German-Americans who has made his mark in Rock Island County. His birth and early training started him aright and he has hewed to the line and become one of the most prosperous and substantial citizens of the community. Mr. Liekefett's native province was Hanover, where he first saw the light November 28, 1848. The parents from whom he descended were Franz and Christina (Giltmacher) Liekefett, who came to the United States in 1855, first settling at St. Louis, Missouri. Here they remained but a short time, removing to near East St. Louis and taking up farming. After two years they came to Rock Island and the husband and father, being a tailor by trade, followed that occupation for two years. At the end of that period, satisfied that there were greater opportunities on the farm than in the shop, Mr. Liekefett purchased land in Bowling Township and settled thereon. Some years later this property was disposed of and the farm in Black Hawk that the couple occupied till death and on which the subject of this review now resides, secured.

Frederick C. Liekefett was married in Rock Island County December 19, 1876, his wife's maiden name being Maria Simser. She was born in this County November 7, 1858, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Bruner) Simser, early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Liekefett have

been blessed with the following children: Mary C., born August 12, 1880, now the wife of Carl Belshouse of this County; Clarence F., born March 28, 1883; Elizabeth E., born March 28, 1886; Sadie E., born November 21, 1889, and Herman L., born October 12, 1892.

Mr. Liekefett after his marriage settled on the home farm and still resides there. He owns four hundred acres of fine and well improved land and is accounted one of the progressive and influential citizens of the County. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church.



### JAMES BRACKETT.

**JAMES BRACKETT**, a prominent lawyer of Cherry Valley, Otsego County, New York, who graduated in the class with Daniel Webster, at Dartmouth College, came to Rock Island in 1847 to spend the last years of a long and useful life.

John Ely Brackett, eldest son of James Brackett, graduated from West Point and later was appointed a Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of Artillery. Later he became a Captain in Colonel Stevenson's Regiment, which was to sail for California to serve during the war with Mexico, and afterwards, as Major-General John Ely Brackett, was very active during the troublous California days in 1849, and is much lauded in the annals of that State. He died in Rock Island some years later.

Joseph Warren Brackett, second son of James Brackett, was appointed midshipman in the navy, at the age of fifteen, in 1830, from which he resigned four years later. In 1840 he was admitted to the bar of New York, and practised nine years in Cherry Valley, his birthplace. He then went to Rock Island, where he remained till his death. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Colonel Brackett joined the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and was appointed successively Battalion

Quartermaster and Regimental Commissary. This Regiment made a record second to none in brilliancy and secured the special thanks of General Curtis and Thomas. He was a member of the John Buford Post, No. 243, Grand Army of the Republic, and one of its Post Commanders. He died at the age of 79, and was born January 19, 1815, in Cherry Valley, New York.

William Brackett, fourth son of James Brackett, was born in Cherry Valley, New York, in 1820. He was educated at Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He went to Rock Island in 1848, moved to Chicago in 1852, where he practised law until 1874. He was an excellent writer, having a style clear, pure and classical, and was a charming companion. He died in Chicago June 14, 1888.

Doctor James W. Brackett, third son of James Brackett, was born in Cherry Valley, New York, October 8, 1816, and came to Rock Island in 1846. When the Civil War broke out Doctor Brackett was appointed surgeon to the Ninth Illinois Cavalry. In 1863 he became a contract surgeon at the United States military prison on the Island of Rock Island. He died at Rochester, Indiana, and was buried at Chippianock Cemetery, March 25, 1886.

Albert Gallatin Brackett, the youngest of James Brackett's seven sons, was born in Cherry Valley, New York, February 14, 1829. In June, 1847, he became First Lieutenant in the Fourth Indiana Volunteers. He participated in a number of battles in the Mexican War, and was honorably discharged at its close. He then went to Rock Island where he lived till March 3, 1855, when he was appointed Captain in the Second Regiment of United States Cavalry and sent to Texas to fight the Indians. When the Civil War broke out he became Colonel of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry. July 17, 1862, he was made Major in the First Cavalry, Regular Army, and sent to the Department of the Missouri. In January, 1864, he was placed in command

of the Second Brigade of the Cavalry Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, and in July of the same year was appointed Acting Inspector-General of Cavalry for the Cavalry Bureau, Army of the Cumberland. During the next thirteen years, as Colonel of the Third Cavalry, he was engaged in constant campaigning against the Indians. He died in Washington and was buried at Arlington with military honors.

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### ROBERT E. LITTLE.

ROBERT E. LITTLE, for ten years postmaster of the Village of Milan, is one of the successful native sons of the County. He was born on a farm in Bowling Township May 22, 1861. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Rea) Little, were both of Irish birth, the former's natal day being December 7, 1815, and the latter's August 16, 1819. They were married in their native land and immigrated to America and to Rock Island County in 1844. The farm on which they settled and which they occupied till death was entered by them from the Government. Mr. Little passed away August 6, 1891, his wife having preceded him to the beyond September 12, 1884. Their children are: Margaret C., wife of O. C. Wells, of Bruning, Nebraska; Ann J., widow of Arthur O'Neal, of Milan; Francis A., of Conway Springs, Kansas; Mary L., widow of Robert Elliott, of Conway Springs; William R., of Cushing, Oklahoma; David T., of Conway Springs; Evaline E., wife of William L. Heath, of Davenport, Iowa; and Robert E., the subject of this review.

The last named received his early training on the farm, being educated in the public schools and at the Dixon Business College. He continued to make the farm his home till 1892, when he removed to Milan and took a position as salesman in the hardware store of his brother-in-law, Phil F. Zahn, remaining there three years. July 7, 1897, Mr. Little

received the appointment as postmaster of Milan and has since discharged the duties of that office to the satisfaction of all. In addition he engages extensively in the insurance business and is owner of the old Little homestead in Bowling, one hundred and eighty acres of well improved land.

Mr. Little was married in Rock Island County October 27, 1886, to Miss Harriet Zahn, also a native of the County. She was born August 21, 1866, the daughter of Phillip and Harriet (Orth) Zahn.

Politically, Mr. Little affiliates with the Republican party and is active in the councils of that organization. He was County committeeman in 1896-97. Among the offices he has held are those of highway commissioner of Bowling and clerk of Black Hawk.

Fraternally the subject of this sketch is a member of the Masonic order, the Court of Honor, and the Eastern Star, his wife also holding membership in the last named.

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### DOUGLAS E. HALL.

WHILE not a long time resident of Rock Island County, the subject of this sketch is a native of Illinois, son of pioneers of the State, and is descended from an ancestry that has participated in all the wars that the United States has waged. Mr. Hall was born in Menard County April 6, 1861, his parents being James P. and Mary J. (Pierce) Hall. His father was born in Lawrence County, Ohio, July 1, 1818, and his mother in Sangamon County, Illinois, August 16, 1830. James P. Hall was a son of Elisha Hall, a native of Bedford County, Virginia, and a descendant of the early pioneers who settled in that State long before the Revolutionary War. Elisha Hall married Nancy Overstreet, also born in Bedford County and of pioneer ancestry. Her father, John Overstreet, was a Revolutionary soldier under General Washington, and participated in the battles of the Cow Pens, Brandywine

and Monmouth, among others, and was at the siege of Yorktown, when Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender. During the War of 1812, Elisha Hall, his son-in-law, was drafted, and being the father of a large family who needed his support, he offered \$100 for a substitute. Mr. Overstreet accepted the offer and, though well advanced in years, again bore arms against the British.

Elisha Hall, in an early day, settled in Lawrence County, Ohio, where he resided till the fall of 1826. Then, with his family, he removed to what is now Menard County, then Sangamon County, Illinois. He settled on a farm near Athens, passing the remainder of his days there and going to his reward in 1838. His wife survived till 1862. James P. Hall, son of Elisha and father of our subject, was a lifelong resident of Menard County, passing away there October 11, 1892, his wife following September 21, 1905. The latter was a daughter of Charles and Malinda (Anderson) Pierce, natives respectively of Tennessee and Kentucky, who settled in Sangamon County in 1825. Charles Pierce was First Lieutenant in Abraham Lincoln's Company during the Black Hawk War and campaigned through Rock Island County at that time. To James P. Hall and wife fourteen children were born, seven surviving. They are Charles W., Emma, Caroline, Rosa, Laura J., Douglas E. and Mollie.

Douglas E. Hall was reared on a farm in Menard County, receiving a limited education in the public schools. Later in life he embraced every opportunity to overcome his lack of advantages early in life and is now a fair type of what is known as the self-made man. After reaching his majority he traveled extensively for two years through the west and south. On returning he took charge of the old homestead and conducted it till his father's death. In 1904 he came to Rock Island County and purchased a farm on Big Island, just outside the corporate limits of the Village of Milan. He owns three hundred

and thirty-seven acres of highly productive land and has become recognized as one of the substantial farmers of the community. Mr. Hall is not married.

### JOHN H. WILSON.

JOHN H. WILSON has been a constant factor in the upbuilding of the Cities of Rock Island and Moline for half a century. As president of the Wilson Moline Buggy Company and in other business enterprises in which he has engaged since coming to this community in 1856 he has given employment to many men and has directed their energies into channels that have brought adequate rewards to themselves, to their employers and to the cities in which they have lived and labored.

Like many another of the substantial early residents of Rock Island County, Mr. Wilson is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Mercer County. His parents and grandparents were tillers of the soil and established one of those elegant old homesteads which excite the admiration of visitors to the Keystone State nowadays, and which exert a powerful influence in drawing the absent sons home from time to time to renew the associations of their childhood. Mr. Wilson often goes back to the old farm home built over eighty years ago, but still in a perfect state of preservation.

During his youth the subject of this sketch attended the public schools, and when about eighteen years of age took a course at Alleghany College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. For several years afterward he worked on his father's farm in summer and taught school in winter. Subsequently he engaged in general merchandising at Clarksville, Pennsylvania, and as he accumulated property became interested in coal mining, a business that he followed to some extent after coming west.

From coal Mr. Wilson turned to oil, investing in a territory on the Ohio and Pennsylvania

line in which several flowing wells were developed. With rare business foresight he sold his holdings at a favorable opportunity to Philadelphia parties and removed to Rock Island. That was in 1856, and he has made his home here since. Conservative in his business habits he has met with uniform success in his various ventures.

Mr. Wilson was united in marriage with Miss Susanna A. Hoxie in Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1850. Three children were born of this union. Clara J., is the wife of George W. Kretzinger, an attorney of Chicago; Mary E., is the wife of F. A. Head; and Nettie, is the wife of W. A. Ross. Mrs. Wilson died in 1882, and two years later Mr. Wilson married Mrs. Ella Case, daughter of Marvin Case, of Greenville, Pennsylvania, and widow of the late Dr. Case, of Chicago.

Mr. Wilson affiliates with the Republican party.



### HENRY E. BROWN.

**M**R. HENRY E. BROWN was born and educated in Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, until his sixteenth year when he moved to Peoria and entered the high school, afterwards entering Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, from which he graduated in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Physics.

Since then he has been connected with the Rock Island Public Schools, starting as a teacher and five years ago becoming principal of the high school.

Mr. Brown has always been greatly interested in all educational matters and has received much recognition for his interest by educational associations. He is at the present time president of the Western Section of the Northern Illinois Teachers' Association. He is also author of a text book which has had a very wide sale among the schools of the country.

Mr. Brown is at present thirty-five years old, and was married in 1906 to Miss Bertha Hanna

### GEORGE LOUGHEAD EYSTER, M. D.

**A**MONG Rock Island physicians none have a wider practice or a more successful one than the subject of this sketch, Doctor George L. Eyster, one of that city's old established and prominent physicians and surgeons.

He was born May 14, 1853, at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, his parents being William F. and Lucretia (Gibson) Eyster. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother of Vermont. His father's family was of German origin, the Eysters being among the early settlers in the colony of Pennsylvania. Doctor Eyster's father was for many years a clergyman of the Lutheran Church, being also engaged in the educational work of that church. For some years he was president of the Hagerstown Female Seminary, a Lutheran educational institution located in Maryland. In 1876 he came to Rock Island, where for ten years he occupied the chair of English Literature at Augustana College. He afterward removed to Crete, Nebraska, where he lived a retired life.

After the removal of the Eyster family to Maryland, where the subject of this sketch received a public school and academic education, fitting himself to enter Pennsylvania College, an institution from which he graduated in 1871. He then entered the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, and three years later he graduated. One year later he began the practice of his profession in Nebraska, but in 1876 he removed to Rock Island, which City has been his home ever since.

Doctor Eyster's ability and skill both in the practice of medicine and surgery was recognized early in his professional life, and his practice has been a constantly increasing one. He is a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital, was County Physician of Rock Island County for about ten years, and for six years was Health Commissioner



in the City of Rock Island. He is a member of several leading medical associations, among them being the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, and the Iowa and Illinois Central District Medical Association. He is also a member of the Rock Island County Medical Society, and from time to time has held several offices in that Society, and has contributed many valuable papers at its meetings.

February 17, 1876, Doctor Eyster was joined in marriage to Miss Fannie P. Wright, a daughter of John K. Wright of Philadelphia. Both the Doctor and his wife are prominent in the society circles of the tri-cities and frequently entertain. The Doctor is a genial host and his wife a charming hostess.

In politics Doctor Eyster has always been a Republican, and although having no disposition or time to engage in active conquest in the political arena he has been the recipient of several appointive offices already mentioned requiring a specialist along medical lines. These he filled ably and with credit. Fraternally Doctor Eyster is connected with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. In his college days he was connected with the *Sigma Chi*, a Greek letter fraternity of national scope.

He is one of Rock Island's best citizens, a man who enjoys the regard and respect of all who have ever had occasion to call him in a professional capacity as well as many others of his friends and acquaintances who know him to be a generous, kindly man.

### ELMER E. MORGAN.

**E**LMER E. MORGAN is a lineal descendant of General Morgan of revolutionary fame.

His grandfather, Isaac Morgan, was born in Kentucky in 1879 and fought in the War of 1812. Later he built the first slab house at what is now Dayton, Ohio. He came to Davenport in 1836. Isaac F. Morgan, father

of Elmer Morgan, grew to manhood in the vicinity of Davenport, married Sarah E. Williams, a Tennessee lady, and settled near DeWitt, Clinton County, Iowa. There the subject of this sketch was born September 13, 1861. His early life was spent on his father's farm and his opportunities for schooling were few. In later life by consistent, painstaking study, he obtained an excellent education, and one which he was able to turn to practical account.

At the age of twenty-three Mr. Morgan sought wider fields of endeavor and took up his residence in Moline, then just beginning to show promise of becoming a great manufacturing city. He began reading law in the office of William A. Meese and soon thereafter opened a collection agency, which he still conducts and which is the oldest one in this part of the State.

Mr. Morgan has traveled extensively in the United States and Europe. In 1896 he toured France, Holland and the British Isles on a bicycle. He was one of the founders of the Unitarian Church in Moline and remains a leading member of that institution. Politically he is a Republican and exerts considerable influence in the party. He is a member of Doric Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; the Eastern Star; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Knights of Pythias; Select Knights; Modern Woodmen and Home Forum.

### HON. JOHN T. BROWNING.

**T**HE oldest member of the Rock Island County Bar, a lawyer of ripe learning and wide experience, who has now retired from the active practice of his profession, is the Honorable John T. Browning, of Moline.

He was born in Genesee County, New York, June 11, 1830, his parents being John L. and Lucy (Tillotson) Browning. He received an academic education at Rochester, where later he was admitted to the bar in the Autumn of 1858.

He came west in December of that same year and located at Moline, where he immediately engaged in the practice of law, being that city's first City Attorney. Of course one of his duties in this position was to compile and arrange a code of ordinances governing the affairs of the City, and this work was done in a highly creditable and systematic manner. In 1876 he formed a law partnership with Mr. Entriken, the well known Moline attorney who has served this County as State's Attorney and Master in Chancery, the firm being known as Browning & Entriken. Two years previous to the formation of this partnership Mr. Browning had been elected to represent this Senatorial District in the Illinois General Assembly. He was re-elected in 1876 and served through another session of the Legislature.

During Mr. Browning's young manhood he entertained very pronounced anti-slavery views and was in fact an ardent Abolitionist. Upon the formation of the Republican party in 1856 he immediately allied himself with that organization and was earnest in his support of Fremont and Dayton. Since that time he has continued in his allegiance to the Republican party and while zealous in its support and a firm believer in its policies he has always been conservative, considering the welfare of the country and the cause of good government of far greater importance than mere party success.

He was engaged in the famous controversy between the river and railroad interests over the construction of the bridge across the Mississippi here at Rock Island. In this controversy one of the most eminent legal talent in Illinois participated, among whom was Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Browning, as has been stated, has now retired from active practice of law. He now makes his home on a fine farm that he owns outside the City of Moline. He still takes an active interest in public affairs and is an extremely well informed man upon all the

pertinent questions of the day. He has, during his professional career, been a great student, and as a counselor he had no superior in Moline. It was to this branch of legal work that he gave his chief attention, rather than to the more exciting life of a trial lawyer. Mr. Browning has always been a liberal and generous contributor to charitable and philanthropic movements, and as a man and a lawyer he is held in high esteem by all who know him.

#### MARTIN THEODORE RUDGREN.

**E**VEN in an age which recognizes young men and places responsibilities upon them which in the past have been laid only upon the shoulders of those of more mature years we seldom find one of twenty-eight years entrusted with the complex details of the business end of the administration of a City of 30,000 inhabitants. Such, however, is the confidence placed in Martin T. Rudgren by the people of the City of Rock Island that they elected him City Clerk when he had barely passed his twenty-eighth milestone, and that by an overwhelming majority. Events have shown that the trust was well merited.

Mr. Rudgren was born in Rock Island April 7, 1879. His parents, Carl J. and Christina W. Rudgren, were both born in Sweden, the former June 22, 1836, in Vermeland, and the latter March 13, 1858, in Ostergotland. The father came to Rock Island in 1868. After a year he went to Moline and made his home in that City seven years. Then he returned to Rock Island, and has resided there since. Mr. and Mrs. Rudgren's marriage took place March 14, 1878. In addition to the subject of this sketch they had one son, Carl Ludwig, who was born January 28, 1881, and died June 14 of the same year. Mrs. Rudgren died February 4, 1881. Mr. Rudgren is now retired and is cared for by his son.

Martin attended the public schools of Rock Island, and after graduating obtained a commercial education at Augustana Business College and the Gustus School of Business in Moline. Then he set out to make his own way. In this he was somewhat handicapped by an accident which maimed him permanently. When eight years old he was injured by being thrown from a sled so that the removal of the right hip joint became necessary. From this time on the use of crutches was required, but so well did Mr. Rudgren learn to handle himself that his handicap after all proved to be but a slight one.

Mr. Rudgren was first employed in the office of an implement factory in Moline, where he remained two years. Resigning at the end of this period he accepted a position with a Rock Island manufacturer, retaining it till the Winter of 1904-05. Then he resigned to take up the duties of tax collector for Rock Island, an office to which he had been elected in April, 1904. He served with such entire satisfaction that his successor the following year detailed him to again collect the taxes for the township. In the Spring of 1907 H. C. Schaffer declined renomination for the office of City Clerk, and Mr. Rudgren's Republican friends saw in him a suitable man for the place. They urged him to make the race and he did, with the result that he defeated his opponent by a majority of over 1600 votes. He took up the duties of office in May, 1907.

Mr. Rudgren is an active member of the First Swedish Lutheran Church of Rock Island and a leader in young people's work. His political affiliations have always been with the Republican party. He is unmarried.

### THOMAS NESSLER.

THOMAS NESSLER is one of Rock Island's well and favorably known German-American citizens, where he occupies the position of brew master for the Rock Island Brewing Company.

He was born December 18, 1869, at Obernhilbeim, Germany, his parents being Donatus and Barbina Nessler. After completing a common school course in his native land he entered a brewing academy at Versuchs Statum, Germany, and there received instruction in the trade which he expected to follow throughout his life, having previously served two years apprenticeship in Aldvisbach, Germany. After being employed for several years in breweries of Germany, he came to the United States in 1892, and later came to Chicago, where from 1898 to 1899 he took an advanced course in the art of brewing in Wahl & Henius Institute in that City.

In 1892, upon locating in Chicago, he was connected with Joseph Junk's brewery for three years, then with the Standard Brewing Company for three years and for one year was with Walker & Burke Brewing Company of the same city. Then, after completing his course at Wahl & Henius Institute, he removed to Danville, where he was brew master for the Danville Brewing & Ice Company, which position he held until 1901, when he came to Rock Island to accept a position as brew master for the Rock Island Brewing Company, which position he now holds. During his connection with the Rock Island Brewing Company he has devoted his knowledge and energy to increasing the excellency of that company's product and how well he has succeeded is attested by that company's constantly increasing patronage.

September 15, 1894, Mr. Nessler was married to Miss Katherine Dimer, and to them one child has been born, a daughter, Katherine B. Nessler.

Mr. Nessler is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined that fraternal organization at Danville, Illinois, and being still affiliated with Lodge No. 499 of that city.

He is not affiliated with any of the regularly established political parties, but prefers to

give his support to men and measures rather than to any political party, and consequently casts his vote independently.

He is a master of the art of brewing, and constantly strives to serve the interests of his employers by bringing their output up to a standard of perfection excelled by none and equalled by few.

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### ALBERT M. BEAL, M. D.

THE technical education of the doctor of medicine avails him but little unless he has laid a foundation for it of broad general knowledge and made a careful study of human nature. When he took up the practice of medicine Doctor Albert M. Beal brought to the profession a mental equipment such as few men acquire in a lifetime. For years he had been an educator, teaching the common branches in the public schools and later specializing in college. Having as a student earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts, he later found opportunity to perfect his knowledge of law so that he was admitted to the bar after successfully passing the prescribed examination. With this preparation the mysteries of medicine and surgery were quickly mastered and success was his from the beginning of his professional career.

Doctor Beal was born October 31, 1853, in Zuma Township, Rock Island County. His parents were Daniel N. and Betsy (Spencer) Beal, pioneers of the community. The son attended the country schools and later the public institutions of learning of Port Byron and Rock Island. At the age of seventeen he began teaching school at what is now Barstow. He entered Western College of Iowa when his preparatory studies had been completed, and graduated with the class of 1876, taking the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The following year he was principal of the Hampton, Illinois, schools. In 1879 he received the degree of Master of Arts from

his *alma mater*, which was in that year removed to Toledo, Iowa. Mr. Beal at this time received a call to the chair of physics and chemistry of Western College and accepted and held that post twelve years. Previously, however, he had read law, being admitted to the bar in 1879. From 1876 to 1879 he acted as assistant to the president of the Moline Water Power Company.

Having decided to fit himself for the practice of medicine, Mr. Beal in 1890 began attending a regular course of lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Des Moines, delivering at the same time a course of lectures on chemistry and medical Latin. During 1891 and 1892 he served as president of Western College. In 1894 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He immediately began practicing at Toledo, Iowa, but after a few months, in December, 1894, he located in Moline, where he has remained since, and where he has built up a large practice. Doctor Beal is a member of the Illinois and Iowa Central District Medical Association and of the Illinois State Medical Association.

At the age of sixteen Mr. Beal became a member of the United Brethren Church. He served as superintendent of the Brethren Sunday School at Toledo for some time. Since coming to Moline he has become identified with the First Congregational Church. He has always been an ardent Republican. Casting his first vote for Ruth-erford B. Hayes for President. While a resident of Toledo he served three successive terms as Mayor, resigning on his removal to Des Moines. He was the first clerk of South Moline Township. Fraternally he affiliates with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

At Andalusia, Illinois, October 31, 1876, Doctor Beal married Miss Etta Thompson, daughter of Henry L. and Mary (Buffum) Thompson. She died November 11, 1880, leaving one daughter, Mamie. A second

marriage was contracted January 1, 1884, with Miss Carrie E. Middekauf, of Polo, Illinois, a native of Ogle County. Five children resulted from the second alliance: Etta Grace, Daniel Middekauf, Althea, Albert Milton, who died when one year old, and Walter Hubert.

### JOHN W. ROCHE.

LITTLE would the visitor of today suspect that much of the western part of the City of Rock Island, now built up with modern homes, business houses and factories, was once an uninhabitable swamp; worse than that, it was covered with water to a great extent, and when the Mississippi was high a rapidly flowing stream ran through half the present length of the city, and skiffs, rafts and even steamboats passed over the very place where hundreds now live and work on dry, firm mother earth the year around. The work of reclaiming this tract of land has been one of less than fifty years, and the process has been a gradual one, full of hard work and patience on the part of those actively engaged.

Among those who saw the possibilities of this part of the city and who labored long and diligently for its improvement, none deserves greater credit than the subject of this sketch. When he, in 1870, purchased his first lot at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, water stood upon it at all seasons, varying in depth from two to six feet. Largely by hand labor he and his family filled it, and built a home there. Later they bought other lots till they owned two blocks, which were gradually improved, and now are among the most valuable in the residence portion of the city.

John W. Roche was born February 22, 1839, in County Waterford, Ireland, celebrated for its fisheries. He was the eldest of three sons, his parents being Michael and Katherine (Power) Roche. Tradition has it that the ancestors of the father came to

Ireland from France in the early part of the seventeenth century as soldiers and remained to fight for the island of their adoption. The parents of our subject lived to an advanced age, the father reaching his ninety-seventh year and the mother her ninety-third. The son obtained a limited education in the national schools. One of his earliest recollections is of incidents connected with the famine of 1846-47 when the potato crop failed. Mr. Roche came to America in 1866, and finally reached Wisconsin with fifty cents in his pocket. Here he worked two years in the lead mines at Shullsberg, having many interesting experiences, and learning, among other things, to play baseball, with the result that he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the national game ever since.

At the end of two years the desire to obtain an education led Mr. Roche to go to Fon du Lac, where he temporarily took up railroad-ing. Seeing, however, a better opportunity for financial gain and mental improvement he soon left the road to become a book agent. Thus it was that he came to visit Rock Island. Mr. Roche relates that when he first thought of coming to the city he has helped build up he was advised by a veteran police magistrate of LaSalle, Illinois, where he happened to be, to avoid the place, on the ground that human life and property were not safe there, his friend adding that three-fourths of the criminals who had come before him were from Rock Island. Apparently, the advice did not make a deep impression for in a short time our subject found himself in Rock Island, and so well pleased was he that he at once decided that he would never settle elsewhere. A few months later, November, 1869, he was married at Fulton, Illinois, to Miss Ellen Mulcahey, and March 25, 1870, the couple came to Rock Island to stay.

For ten years thereafter Mr. Roche continued in the book business and made a success of it. Then he embarked in other lines, among which was life insurance, and here



again he demonstrated his fitness, standing, after two years, eleventh in point of business written, among two hundred agents of the Prudential Insurance Company. In July, 1900, Mr. Roche established the American Steam Laundry at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, which he still owns and operates.

Mr. Roche has never held public office. Neither has he affiliated with any party, preferring to support the men whom he believes fit, rather than platforms full of glittering generalities. He is a faithful member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and withal, a fine example of the self-made man.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roche. Four died in infancy, the others still surviving.



### JOHN H. THORNTON.

**M**R. JOHN H. THORNTON, veteran of the Civil War and for many years employed in the Government service at Rock Island Arsenal, was born in Ireland June 24, 1847, and died at his home in Moline July 9, 1903. He was the son of Patrick and Mary Thornton and came to America with his parents while an infant, aged nine months. The mother died in Rochester, New York, after which the father removed to Philadelphia, from which city, at the age of sixteen, young Thornton enlisted, July 26, 1862, in Company Fifty-three, Twenty-Ninth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, Third Infantry. His Company was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division, Twentieth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

He was in numerous engagements, among them may be named the Battle of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Zurnell Hill. In 1865 he was honorably discharged and returning to Philadelphia he followed the arts of peace for the succeeding five years,

when in 1870 he enlisted in the Ordnance Corps of the United States Army, and was assigned for duty at Rock Island Arsenal.

Coming here with Captain Farley, who was next in command at the Arsenal, when General Flagler was Commandant, Mr. Thornton served on the Island till 1894, when he was placed on the retired list as Sergeant, after a total of thirty years of service, with pay of forty dollars per month.

After retirement from the service he secured a position in the shops at the Arsenal, which he held up to the time of his last illness. Mr. Thornton was married to Martha J. Montgomery, daughter of the late and venerable A. E. Montgomery, September 17, 1885. No children were born to them, and his widow, alone, of all his relatives, so far as known, survives him.

Mr. Thornton was a staunch Republican, always active in his party's interests. He served two years as a member of the board of Supervisors from South McIne Township, and also as school director in his district for several terms. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, also of Graham Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and of Ben Butterworth Command, Union Veterans Union, and at one time was a member of the Select Knights of America. His religious affiliations was with the United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Thornton was a genial, whole-souled man and left a host of friends to mourn his death.



### MAURICE A. HOLLINGSWORTH.

**M**R. MAURICE A. HOLLINGSWORTH, a veterinary surgeon, now practicing his profession in the City of Rock Island, was born December 10, 1872, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and has been a resident of Rock Island for a number of years.

He is the son of Abraham and Celestia S. Hollingsworth, who gave him an education in the Ontario Veterinary College at Toronto,

Canada. After completing his studies there he took up his residence in Rock Island and commenced the practice of his profession, which he has gradually built up so that he now ranks among the foremost of his profession in this vicinity.

It was not until 1904 that Doctor Hollingsworth decided to wed, and on September 4 of that year he married Miss Isabel J. McConochie, the charming and well known daughter of Ex-Mayor William McConochie.

Doctor Hollingsworth ranks high in his profession, and is well and favorably known throughout the County of Rock Island.



### JOSIAH G. HECK.

THE subject of this sketch, Josiah G. Heck, of Moline, was born in Harrison County, Ohio, May 8, 1840, the son of John and Sarah (Wilde) Heck, and has been a resident of Rock Island County the past sixty-four years. The Heck family is an old one; Phillip Heck, grandfather of Josiah Heck, belonging to a family that was early established in the United States.

John Heck, father of Josiah Heck, was born September 10, 1786, in Pennsylvania. In 1833 he emigrated to Harrison County, Ohio, staying eleven years there. There he married Miss Sarah Wilde, and a few years later Josiah Heck was born. In the early forties John Heck and family started for the Territory of Illinois, coming down the Ohio and up the Mississippi River to Rock Island, where he arrived May 15, 1844. In 1894 the family of Josiah Heck celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their arrival, four generations participating. Mr. Heck's father passed away August 6, 1878, at the advanced age of 92. His wife survived him until 1881.

Our subject is an old soldier who was one of the valiant sons who responded to the call of Abraham Lincoln when the Civil War broke out. As a youth he had good educational advantages, and was a college student

when the war was declared. On October 5, 1864, he joined Company C, Sixty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Army of the Tennessee until discharged June 10, 1865.

In public life Mr. Heck has been prominent. For seven years he has been justice of the peace, and has served as collector, overseer of highways, as a member of the school board, and for twelve years served as a township trustee. As a strong temperance man his sympathies are with the Prohibition party, but he often votes independent of party ties.

Mr. Heck was married May 11, 1881, to Miss Lora E. Cornwall, who was born in Fayette County, Iowa, and is the daughter of George W. and Araminta (Crawford) Cornwall, natives of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Heck have one daughter, Elizabeth S. Heck. They are members of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Heck belongs to the Forum Lodge of Stewartsville.



### JOSEPH HUNTOON.

JOSEPH HUNTOON, deceased, a native of Hanover, New Hampshire, was born April 17, 1812, and came to Illinois in 1837, and settled at Andover Heights. Shortly afterwards he went to what is now called Richland Grove Township, where he was united to Miss Sylvia Tanneg in marriage also a native of New Hampshire, having been born at New Ipswich October 22, 1822.

Joseph Huntoon only had a common school education and at an early age learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1844 he and Mrs. Huntoon took up their residence in Moline and he was the first shoemaker of that place, which was then a mere "Hamlet." He resided at the corner of Second Avenue and Fourteenth Street, the property on which he lived belonging to Spencer White, and afterwards was the home of S. W. Wheelock.

Mr. Huntoon later removed to Fourth Avenue and Fourteenth Street, where he

lived until the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad came west, and upon entering Moline, took a portion of their lot. This necessitated the removal of the house further back on the lot in order to make room for the tracks. The people at that time were so anxious for the railroad that they cared but little where the tracks were laid.

Some time later Mr. Huntoon removed to the old Joseph Jackman place where he resided until his demise.

Mrs. Huntoon was a charter member of the Congregational Church of Moline, being at that time only eighteen years of age. Soon afterwards Mr. Huntoon became a member of the same church, and both became steady church goers. Mr. Huntoon later became a deacon and also could be found on each Wednesday evening in charge of the Boys' Club. Not only was Mr. Huntoon the first shoemaker of the place, but he was the second brickmaker as well. Finding that the brick industry was a profitable one he commenced to manufacture that material, and from 1846 to 1876 he supplied Moline with the greater quantity of its brick.

His family consisted of Edgar N., Joseph C., George H., Mary L. and Fannie A. Huntoon, all of whom were born in Moline with the single exception of Edgar N., who was born in Mercer County, Illinois.

Through keen perseverance and business enterprise Mr. Huntoon acquired considerable wealth, and after giving his children a good education, left them well provided for. He possessed the faculty of making friends and was held in high regard by his many acquaintances.



#### HONORABLE GEORGE W. JOHNSON.

**H**ONORABLE GEORGE W. JOHNSON, of No. 1440 Twelfth Street, Moline, was born in Henry County, Illinois, October 9, 1857. He was raised on the farm and the training he there acquired fitted him well for

the public career he later attained. As a youth he was persevering and studious and made the most of the public school teachings he had the advantage of. May 31, 1882, he married Miss Caroline F. Hogg, of Andover, Illinois. For two years they conducted a farm and then, Mr. Johnson feeling himself fitted for a business career, moved to Orion, Illinois, in the Spring of 1884, where he entered in the general mercantile business. During President Harrison's administration he was appointed postmaster at Orion.

In 1891 he gave up his business in Orion and moved to Moline where he entered the real estate field. He followed this business until 1900 when he accepted the active management of the Moline Furniture Co.

Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican and has been identified with the party since old enough to vote. As a Republican he has always upheld the party principles and taken an active part in the campaigns. He was elected a member of the House of Representatives from this, the Thirty-third Senatorial District, in 1898, and served for two terms in the Forty-first and Forty-second general assembly, where he acquitted himself well. Mr. Johnson is affiliated with the Lutheran Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been the parents of four children, the oldest dying when six years of age. There are three boys living, Mauritz Johnson, aged twenty-two, now with his father in the office; Esley, aged nineteen, now at college; and Franklin, aged twelve, now in the public schools.



#### CHARLES BISHOP KNOX.

**C**HARLES BISHOP KNOX, deceased, one of Rock Island's pioneer citizens and a wide awake and conservative business man and politician in his days, was born at Blandford, Massachusetts, June 27, 1818, and died in Rock Island on May 28, 1890.

Charles Bishop Knox was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis B. Knox, who was one of the old respected families of Blandford. He acquired a common school education in the public schools of Blandford and Springfield, Massachusetts, and in 1841 came to the City of Rock Island direct from his native state. Having arrived here at this early day he was listed among the pioneer settlers of the county and soon became widely acquainted.

After devoting much time to the study of embalming he entered the undertaking business in Rock Island in 1858 and continued in this business until May 28, 1890, which was the day of his demise.

During this period of years he held public office, and in the execution of the duties of these, which he capably conducted, naturally won the esteem and admiration of all those with whom he dealt. His career in politics lead him into various offices of responsibility which he occupied for a number of years. Among the public offices held by him being County Coroner, county supervisor and alderman of the City of Rock Island.

Mr. Knox was a staunch Republican and was elected to office by the Republican party. Aside from these political duties Mr. Knox also served for some time as chief of the volunteer fire department of Rock Island.

To fraternal organization Mr. Knox gave but little of his time, being only a member of Rock Island Lodge, No. 18, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and taking but a small part in its business or social department. While he was affectionate and liberal he was affiliated with no other charitable or philanthropic institutions than the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Island. In this he was known as a good church worker and always assisted in its advancement in whatever way he could.

In 1839, shortly before Mr. Knox had reached his maturity, or at the age of twenty years, he decided to marry, and this event took place at Blandford, where he resided

until he came to Rock Island in 1841, two years later.

Four sons of Charles Bishop Knox are his only survivors: Edwin B. Knox of Moline, B. F., C. B. and S. P. Knox of this city are the remaining members of his family.

Under him two sons learned the embalming and undertaking business, and to this day both are successfully engaged in carrying out the work of the father; E. B. Knox conducting his undertaking rooms in Moline, and B. F. Knox in this city. Both have established themselves in their respective cities as well as in the surrounding community and are enjoying a steady growth and prosperous business. B. F. Knox, like his father, aspired to political office and was on two occasions honored by being elected mayor of the City of Rock Island on the Republican ticket.

The demise of Charles Bishop Knox took from Rock Island one of its most estimable, upright and honorable citizens.

#### WALTER JUDSON ENTRIKIN.

AFTER sixty-two years of experience of the most varied nature, Walter Judson Entrikin, prominent attorney, died August 3, 1908, at his residence in Moline, at 316 Sixteenth Street. Unlike many of the older settlers in this county, Attorney Entrikin was born on American soil and spent his entire life in the United States of America—in the great middle west. Born on February 8, 1846, he spent his early youth in Salem Township, Columbiana County, Ohio, but later choose to roam farther west. After many years of work in various capacities in Rock Island County, Mr. Entrikin became city attorney of the City of Moline, 1873-4 and 1881-2; state's attorney of Rock Island County, 1884-8; master in chancery of Rock Island County, 1902-4.

His parents were Brinton Entrikin and Eliza Jane (McCraken) Entrikin. Their history

is of great interest and it was due to their efforts and labor in the "pioneer days" that their descendants became influencing powers in communities in which they have labored in later years. Brinton Entrikin was born on December 8, 1811, at Westchester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Eliza Jane McCracken was born on November 19, 1814, at Salem Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. The father of the local man was a schoolmate with Bayard Taylor, the author, and his mother was an important station agent on the "Underground Railroad" that railroad which passed through Columbiana County, and which meant so much to fugitive slaves seeking Canada, and freedom. The Entrikins came from Ireland, the McCrackens from Scotland. John Entrikin, the first Entrikin of whom a detailed record was kept, settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania, before the Revolutionary war. The grandmother of Walter Entrikin, it is related, tied up the finger of General George Washington when he was wounded in the battle of Brandywine, at the time she was a little girl.

Mr. Entrikin came to Moline, Illinois, on April 25, 1871, and has since resided there. Previous to that time he received a classical collegiate course at Oberlin College, the growing Ohio educational institution, graduating on August 4, 1870. Following that he read law with Wait and Modenvell of Geneseo, and with John T. Browning of Moline, Illinois. He was admitted to the bar of Rock Island County on October 12, 1871, being the last lawyer to take the examination under the late Judge George W. Pleasants.

Mr. Entrikin was a Congregationalist and his views were of the broadest scope. His record as a Republican party member in this county is a long and prominent one. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Walter Judson Entrikin married Miss Julia Althea Chamberlin on August 18, 1870.

His wife was a native of Vermont and came to Moline with her parents in April of 1860. They were William and Lydia P. Chamberlin, well-to-do and people who for the most part lived a quiet retired life.

The children are: Eva Mary Morgan, wife of Robert H. Morgan, of Moline; William Brinton Entrikin and Frederick Chapin Entrikin, who were associated with their father in Moline; Roy Judson Entrikin, connected with Moline Heating and Construction Company; and Ada Lucile Entrikin, widely known soprano soloist and graduate of American Conservatory of Music.

### DOCTOR JAMES F. MYERS.

DOCTOR JAMES F. MYERS, one of Rock Island County's prominent physicians, was born December 29, 1856, at Hebron, Ohio, and was the son of Henry A. and Lavina Myers, both of whom are living in their eighties at Eureka, Illinois. Dr. Meyers' father was a Baptist minister by vocation, but at an early age retired upon a farm in McLean County, Illinois. He was a native of Alleghany County, Pennsylvania.

Doctor James F. Myers attended the common schools of his own neighborhood until he reached his eighteenth year, when he took up his studies at Westfield College. Before receiving his degree there he entered the business college of Marquam and Baker at Bloomington, Illinois, and after completing his course of study in this college, entered Rush Medical College and graduated from that institution February 20, 1883.

During the time spent in college he studied art, and during the last three years of his studies he taught music, namely: piano, violin and vocal.

James F. Myers was born on a farm and spent his boyhood days there. Even when a mere boy he was noted for his musical inclinations, if not his ability, and at the age of fifteen years was leader of a brass band.



also leader of an orchestra, played the church organ and taught the old fashioned singing school in the school houses and churches and in the villages in his section of the country.

After graduating in medicine from Rush Medical College in 1883 he located at Farmer City, Illinois, for the practice of his profession. Not content with his country practice and the long rides over country roads he gave up his practice there and located in the City of Rock Island in the Fall of 1901, and has continued his residence in Rock Island since. His daily life was unobtrusive and he was not disturbed from following the "even tenor" in his own way until after the second attempt by the Modern Woodmen to move their head offices from Fulton, Illinois, to Rock Island. Doctor Myers was the only physician in a party of five hundred who went from Rock Island to Fulton in a special train for the purpose of forcefully removing the books and fixtures of the Modern Woodmen of America, and a general riot followed, in which about one fourth of the participants were injured.

Doctor Myers was such a conspicuous figure in leading the attack upon the people of Fulton—or the "Fultonites," as they were called—and in his attentions to his wounded comrades after the fight was over, though he himself had been shot, cut and bruised, made him generally known and spoken of with more than ordinary consideration.

Doctor Myers had not only accomplished much in medicine and music, but in politics, education and fraternal organization as well. In 1886 he was president of the school board and in 1889 was president of the McLean County Agricultural Fair Association. In 1898 he was elected supreme medical director of the Court of Honor, a position which he held for eight years.

In the same year he was also elected a member of the board of supervisors and held the position for six years. He was appointed in 1902 by Sheriff Gordon as physician to the Rock Island County jail, and he was suc-

cceeded by the same position by Sheriff Hemmenway and Sheriff Cralle. During the year of 1906 he was health commissioner for the City of Rock Island, and it might well be added that Doctor Myers was the organizer and first president of the first medical society organized in Rock Island County which was recognized by the Illinois State Medical Society.

Politically Doctor Myers was a Republican and is still of that persuasion.

He has been and is at the present time connected with many organizations, among which are the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Court of Honor, Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, North Star, Modern Brotherhood of America, Royal Americans, American Order of Foresters and others. He has held various offices in nearly all these orders and has held responsible offices in the supreme lodges of many of them. He was for years chairman of the law committee of the Fraternal Army. For eight years he was supreme medical director of the Court of Honor. For eight years he was a member of the board of directors of the North Star and is now in possession of the highest office, chief astronomer.

Doctor Myers was married March 15, 1882, to Miss Sarah J. Johnson, of Heyworth, Illinois. Her father was James Johnson, the most influential farmer in the community in which he resided. Two children have been born to Doctor and Mrs. Myers: Dacie, now the wife of a prominent dry goods merchant of Erie, Illinois; and Miss Nettie E. Myers at home. Miss Nettie is editor of the *North Star*, a publication devoted to the organization of which Doctor Myers is chief astronomer.



#### DOCTOR F. H. GARDNER.

DOCTOR F. H. GARDNER, a physician residing at 507 Fifteenth Street, Moline, Illinois, is a native of the state, having been born at Sublette March 16, 1839. After

acquiring a common and high school education he entered the Chicago College of Pharmacy and Medical Department Union of Illinois, from which he graduated. He served briefly as a military man as a member of the Chicago Zouaves, this service extending from the year of 1886 to 1887. Politically he was every hair a Republican, and in 1897 he received the appointment of United States pension examiner, which position he holds to date.

Faternally he is affiliated with Doric Lodge, No. 319, of Moline. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1897, the same year in which he was appointed United States pension examiner, he married Miss Anna VanHorn, of LaFayette, Indiana.

As a physician he ranks high and as a citizen his pleasing personality and characteristics have stamped him among the most agreeable and respected of Moline.



### MARK ASHDOWN.

**M**ARK ASHDOWN, deceased, for many years a resident of Port Byron and Coe Townships, was, during his lifetime, one of the best known and respected of the many long time residents of this county. He was born in County Kent, in England, on the third day of June, 1851, and died May 31, 1907. He came to America early and in late years became prominent in local public life as an ardent Prohibitionist and the holder of various public offices in this county at various times. Not until early in 1907 did death finally claim Mr. Ashdown, after he had suffered for six years with paralysis.

The late citizen of Rock Island County, here mentioned, was the son of Edward and Ann Bakurst Ashdown, both of County Sussex, England. Edward Ashdown, father of Mark, came to America in 1842, accompanied by his two sons, Henry and Mark, and

after spending thirteen months in Macedon, Wayne County, New York, they returned to England, where the elder Mr. Ashdown died soon afterward.

In the fall of 1850 Mark and his brother returned to New York State and again located in Wayne County. Until 1855 Mark remained there and in that year emigrated to Illinois, spending one Summer in Port Byron. Then going to Canoe Creek Township of Rock Island County, he remained until 1863, engaging in agricultural pursuits. Going into Coe Township in 1863, he remained until 1881, at which time he again moved to Port Byron, engaging in the manufacture of lumber and acting as local dealer in agricultural implements. Not until 1895 did he permanently retire from active business pursuits.

For eight years Mr. Ashdown was a justice of the peace in Coe Township and for thirteen years he was a member of the school board. He was also at one time a member of the Port Byron town board. In early years Mr. Ashdown was identified with the Democratic party, but in late years, as was stated above, he became a Prohibitionist.

Mark Ashdown married in Wayne County, New York, on December 23, 1852, the bride being Miss Mary Ann Beale, of County Kent, England. Miss Beale came to this country in 1850, with her father, Henry E. Beale. The nearest descendants of Mark Ashdown are two sons and one daughter, namely: William Henry, born in Wayne County, New York, and now living in Coe Township; Charles Edward, born in Rock Island County, Illinois, a farmer living in Coe Township; and Ella E., the wife of Luther S. Pearsell, a Port Byron merchant. One son died in infancy.



### HARRY LANDON CHAPMAN.

**H**ARRY LANDON CHAPMAN, a native of Illinois, was born at Jerseyville, in this state, on October 29, 1875, and was the son of T. S. and Sarah E. Chapman.

His mother was formerly Miss Sarah E. Landon, of German parentage, while his father was an Englishman.

Mr. Chapman is now prominent in banking circles in the City of Moline, where he holds the honorable position of vice-president of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company. He took up his residence in Moline February 1, 1904, and since that time has made many staunch friends.

After obtaining a public school education he entered the Michigan law school and upon completion of his studies, graduated and was admitted to the bar of Illinois and Michigan at the age of twenty-three years. He practiced law for some time, but decided that his interest in banking would be of greater value, and consequently turned his attentions to that profession, to which he still adheres.

Mr. Chapman is a Republican but never run for public office. He has always, and is still, ready to exert his efforts for a fellow Republican. Mr. Chapman is also a constant church goer and can be found in the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Moline on most every Sunday. His people were all honorable and ranked high in their respective lines of business, and like his ancestry, Mr. Chapman aspires to the summit of his profession.

#### DOCTOR A. H. ARP.

THERE is no period in the world's history which fails to demonstrate that exceptional ability and knowledge are invariably triumphant and lasting, and live in memory long after the finite clay has returned to mother earth.

In medicine, as in every profession or business, nothing succeeds like success, but to attain success requires a master mind, a logical and conservative policy and a thorough understanding of one's chosen calling. This being true, what shall be said of those who are inordinately endowed with genius and ability of accomplishment?

Hence, is so much as success is measured by achievement, and in turn, success is *bona fide* proof of exceptional capability, it can be perceived that the prolific mind if not permitted to hide its lamp of genius under a bushel. Personal adaptation and knowledge are recognized with a certainty that passeth understanding, and are never permitted to remain dormant for any great length of time. Whether it be found in business, politics, art or medicine, the result is the same—cream will not cease rising until it has reached the top.

A timely and parallel case for illustration is to be found in Doctor A. H. Arp, of Moline. Born December 4, 1861, in Davenport, Iowa, and being left fatherless at the age of three and a-half years, he was never the less endued with the perquisites which go to make a virile and intelligent being, and such he has been during his entire lifetime.

After the death of his father his mother removed to Moline, where she took abode with her brother, Doctor P. H. Wessel. In that city he received his education, and after being graduated from the public schools began to study law under the direction of Honorable William A. Meese. Finding law incompatible to his inclinations, Mr. Arp took up the science of medicine under the tutorage of Doctor P. H. Wessel, his uncle, and in 1879 entered the Iowa State University, from which he graduated in 1882, being one of the first class in that college to finish the three years' medicine course. He returned to Moline and began his profession under auspicious circumstances, and Moline has since been his home.

In 1888 he formed a partnership with Doctor Wessel, a consolidation which did not terminate until 1895, since which time Doctor A. H. Arp has practiced as an individual physician. How successful he has been is apparent by the scores of patients who daily visit his office, by the remarkable cures he has effected, and by the fact that he



DR. A. H. ARP





is the attending physician for nearly, if not all, of the manufactories in the Plow City; chief surgeon of the Tri-City Railway and Light Company, and surgeon for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway shops. He is a member of the Rock Island County Medical Society, Illinois State Medical Society, American Medical Association, Association of Railway Surgeons, Tri-State Medical Society of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri; he served as City physician of Moline from 1883 to 1887, and from 1892 to 1897 in the same capacity; he was appointed on the first hospital board under the state law, and was its secretary or president for six years; and is a member of its medical staff, and of the adjunct staff of St. Anthony's hospital. In 1907 Doctor A. H. Arp was appointed commissioner of health under the administration of Mayor Andrew Olson, which position he still holds, and under his management a great many needed reforms as to public health have been inaugurated. As may be surmised, he is a member of numerous orders, among which may be named King Philip Tribe, Improved Order of Red men, of which he is a charter member; Improved Order of Forresters; Modern Woodmen of America, No. 38; Tribe of Ben Hur; Royal Neighbors, etc., and these he represents as physician for the order. Is medical examiner for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Equitable of New York, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Massachusetts, etc.

December 24, 1889, Doctor Arp was wed in Rock Island to Miss Mattie Hardy, who was born in Wisconsin, she is a graduate of the Rock Island High School, was graduated in music under Professor Kramer of Davenport, and was for two years a well known music teacher in Chicago. Two children were born to this union, namely: A. Henry and Louis C.

A volume larger than this could be written relative to the experiences and cures wrought by Doctor Arp, but since his reputation as a skilled hand and master mind in medicine and surgery has spread to limitless miles, any effort to confine them to details or define them would be futile.

Coming from the great middle class of "men who do things," Doctor Arp was physically as well as mentally qualified to succeed, as evidenced by the rapid strides in medicine that he can check to his credit. He is jovial, but never ungracious; kindly and gentle, though courageous and stern; strong and virile, yet womanly in tenderness and sympathy.

As a physician he is par excellent, and his reputation throughout the middle west is paramount to that of any physician, regardless of the school which awarded him a sheepskin. Medicine magnifies before him with the ease and celerity with which the sun disposes of the dew, and as a diagnostician and surgeon he is an acknowledged superior, even by those who would fain say otherwise. Socially he is recognized in every plane and by everyone, and in brief, it may be said that aside from his skill as a physician and a gentle administrator to suffering mankind, he is pleasant, painstaking, conscientious, and of sterling integrity. What more need be said, for of what avail are weak words compared with the lasting monument of service which he has rendered to all who came under his care.

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## CHARLES DEERE.

THE American plow and the name of Deere are synonymous in the public mind. Neither widespread commercialism inspired by the plow nor its constant development toward perfection by other hands and minds has effaced the intimacy between the inventor and his invention. There is no such close sympathy between

Fulton and the steamboat, Morse and the telegraph or others among the pioneers of practical ideas. The living force of most inventors has been in the ideas they have given to the world, but the perfection of these ideas has been carried forward by others. The living force of the Deere invention is the Deere plow and the Deere industry and the faithful association of the inventor with every phase of the development of his invention. The Deere plow was the product of the genius of John Deere, the father; the Deere industry was the triumph of business acumen akin to talent of Charles Henry Deere, the son. The Deere plow and the Deere industry have ever been foremost in setting a standard for agriculture and manufacture, both in perfection of the implement and the magnitude of the industry. Seldom has history brought into such close relation such a remarkable combination of practical genius and business capacity in father and son. They were true pioneers of American products in the markets of the world and they made the name of Deere a house hold term in every nation of the globe.

Charles H. Deere was a typical American in a day and age conspicuous for individual achievement. The times called for men to develop the natural resources of the young undeveloped nation. Men consecrated their lives to organizing vast industrial activities. Charles Deere was representative of the highest type of these producers of the enormous wealth of the nation. His life was consecrated to exploiting the utility of that which his father had created. The plow not only became the most potent forerunner of civilization, but the originator of the commercial wealth of the nation.

As a boy, when his mind was forming, Charles Deere caught the all-absorbing enthusiasm and zeal of the father. He was John Deere's companion in driving about the country in the vicinity of Grand Detour, Illinois, to test the primitive plows the father

had built for the pioneers. He held the plow and followed the furrow and caught the first faint realization of the scope of agriculture as a national resource and of the business of farming.

Charles Deere was brought a babe in arms by his mother in 1838 from the family home in Hancock, Addison County, Vermont, where Charles was born March 28, 1837. John Deere had preceded the family by several months to the west. In the simple home at Grand Detour, now a somewhat deserted village near Dixon, Illinois, the son tasted the privations of the pioneer, lived the humble life of the settler, mingled with the Indians and was given the meager advantages of the country school. He was brought a boy of eleven, to the new home in Moline when John Deere, in 1848, was prompted to move from Grand Detour by reason of the natural advantages of coal, water power and transportation for his modest industry. His common school education was continued in Moline and he attended commercial schools at Davenport and Galesburg, finishing his education at Bell's commercial school in Chicago.

When he first became identified with the Deere Plow Works in 1853, the son was put at bookkeeping. His marked ability at mastering detail brought him more intimately into the industry and he turned to salesman. He became proficient in every phase of plow-making and demonstrating, even as a boy in actual apprenticeship as an artisan. Driving horses was a natural talent, and he became the company's most expert representative in handling the walking plow, being especially successful in introducing it into new territory. In later years he never swerved from his devotion to his first love—the walking plow—and even to the last year of his life Mr. Deere's greatest delight was to spend often as much as a half day in the experimental field holding a walking plow to the furrow.





*Charles H. Deere*

Building a factory in those days before the war was a slow and laborious process with no banks and no railroads. The Deere plows were left with the merchant on commission and were delivered by wagon after trips often several hundred miles long. Collections were made on subsequent trips, the dealer receiving a dollar as commission on each sale. The panic of 1857 caught the Deere industry in the midst of an outlay for additions, and the burden of the storm rested heavily on the struggling concern. Pluck and determination carried it through, and every creditor was paid in full.

At the outbreak of the civil war the company's selling force consisted of George W. Vinton, Alvah Mansur and Charles Deere. The younger Deere's adventurous spirit prompted him to follow a regiment organized in Moline as far as Palmyra, Missouri, but his military ardor was cooled after a week spent in camp and his unsuccessful effort to be mustered in. He was one of the active young men of the town thereafter in securing and forming new regiments of volunteers for service. He was inspired by a warm patriotism, and in 1898 contributed with liberal hand to the support of those left behind by the volunteers of the Spanish-American war.

Charles Deere became a partner with his father and his brother-in-law in the Deere factory in 1858. Ten years later—in 1868—the corporation of Deere and Company was formed and Charles Deere became vice-president and general manager. The practical worth of the Deere plow had been demonstrated. The manufacture of the young industry had reached an annual output of 100,000 plows. The problem before father and son was to organize to meet the great market before them. There came to the son—now a mature business man—the awakening to the responsibility before him, and thenceforth his life was consecrated to the great work given him to perform. During

the eighteen years that intervened between the organization of the corporation and the death of John Deere in 1886, the individuality of the son became more and more the individuality of the concern. He became president of Deere and Company and all auxiliaries at his father's death.

His work ever beckoned him on—on. He could scarcely have dreamed of the ultimate fruit of his talent, but his success lay in building his industry with such a master touch that it was ever prepared to respond to the quickening influence of a larger market. From selling directly to the dealer, a system of branch stores—which later became branch houses—grew under his direction, till at the time of his death any one of the fifteen or more at Omaha, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Winnipeg, San Francisco and other centers represented a volume of business worthy of the undivided attention of a business genius. He and his father originated the policy of making each branch house the center of a diversified line of farm implements, thereby bringing the name of Deere more intimately into every phase of the business of farming. His great structure comprehended the entire field of agriculture. The Deere and Mansur Company was started in 1877 to manufacture corn planters. The John Deere Buggy Company of St. Louis, the Fort Smith Wagon Company, the Velie Saddlery Company, the Union Malleable Iron Company all became cogs in the almost perfect business machine which he constructed. Mr. Deere was a profound believer in the future of his country; he displayed rare foresight in forecasting the possibilities of its resources and he organized his industry to develop them. At the close of the nineteenth century he caught the first glow of the golden age in American manufacturing and he set about to rebuild his plow factory to meet it. At the time of his death he had only just completed this reconstruction. Death allowed him no time in which to



journey along to old age in moderate retirement. His three score years and ten were meted out to him almost to a day.

There was nothing hap-hazard about the success of the Deere industry. Its implements were built for the specific work they were to perform. The temper of the iron, climatic conditions, the needs of the agriculturist were met before the implement was sent from the factory. A healthful invigorating life permeated every detail. Everything which bore the name of Deere represented real value conservatively estimated.

Under the direction of such a master mind it was but natural that a distinctively Deere sentiment should sway the industry. Did Mr. Deere specialize it was in his judgment of men and his mastery of detail. He possessed an insight akin to instinct in the selection of men of large calibre as his aides in working out his great structure. They carried on down through their departments a spirit of personal responsibility and consequence and pride in doing one's best. "Deere stands by his men" came to be a sentiment that established a mutual bond of sympathy, inspiring wonderful loyalty to the name of Deere. The fundamental principle was to provide the best and the public would be quick to appreciate.

The honor due his father as inventor of the plow was respected with uncommon reverence and devotion. Every branch house but two bore the name of John Deere. The bust of John Deere was the distinguishing characteristic of the advertising of the parent plant and its immediate auxiliaries. Was he swayed by pride, it was in the name of Deere and in the father whose genius had given the name such immortal luster. Personal glory over his achievement was utterly foreign to his nature.

The scope of his life work made Mr. Deere of necessity a man of large public usefulness. It drew him into the very vortex of the industrial and political life of the nation.

The individuality of his concern in large measure became the individuality of the community in which he lived. Deere and Company, the Deere and Mansur Company, and the Union Malleable Iron Company—his trinity of industries—gave employment to 3,500 men during the latter years of his life. His capital at one time or another was invested in practically every manufactory in Moline. He recognized the strategic advantage of the locality as a manufacturing center and substantiated his faith in its future by liberal investment in every phase of the business life of the city, notably erecting many of its most substantial structures aside from its factories. He popularized Moline by the success of his own enterprises and became its leader and financial power in establishing its commercial solidity. His capital was identified with the People's Power Company, the Moline Water Power Company, and the street car lines, public utilities that have had potent influence in the growth of the community. His personal influence was conspicuous toward making Rock Island Arsenal the chief workshop of the government and toward making the Mississippi River and the Hennepin Canal practical highways of commerce. He was the first to be sought when a new enterprise was projected and its fate many times rested on his attitude toward it. His first question was of the men to be identified with it. Outside of Moline his investments aside from his factories were in every known avenue of public enterprise.

There is no estimating the scope of Mr. Deere's contribution to the material prosperity and progress of the world. His factories and allied industries, his distributing branches, gave employment to thousands and furnished means of livelihood to other thousands, to say nothing of the countless thousands who have profited through the utility of the Deere plow and allied implements. The volume of business of his great business structure in the year of his death is



H. E. CASTEEL



estimated to have been \$25,000,000. Such usefulness to humanity is not generally dignified with the name of philanthropy, but men who have been such factors in providing the opportunity to others to help themselves must be real philanthropists in a large appreciation of the term.

His closest friends scarcely realized the extent of his national prominence and influence. A sincere republican, he was a factor in the highest councils of his party. He stood consistently for those policies which would build up the nation. He was a counsellor of statesmen, for had he not intimate knowledge of the farm and factory, the warm-earner of national resources, all of them the most serious considerations of the lawmaker: He was accorded appointments of honor as national convention delegate, national elector in the Benjamin Harrison campaigns, president of the state board of labor statistics under Governors Ogelsby and Cullom, trustee of DeKalb Normal School, commissioner to the Vienna Exposition in 1873 and to the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago. But only once did he take up public work for personal reasons, and that in the interest of the development of deep waterways, a cause which lay close to the heart of one with such large conception of the world's wealth. He was appointed by Governor Deneen in 1907 to be commissioner of the Illinois and Michigan canal in appreciation of his influence in promoting the question of national waterways before congress and of drawing attention to the waterways of Illinois.

This strong silent man, who abounded in action and in splendid achievement was supremely indifferent to personal prominence or power. A man of the world in its largest sense, he was swayed by the simplest tastes. He found his recreation and delight in things which money cannot buy—in his home, in the woods and hills and water, in flowers, in the progress of the crops, in reverencing the

memories of the sturdy pioneers, especially of the middle west. Did he have a weakness it was for fine horses. He was a plain man of the people wherever he went, democratic in nature, dignified, reserved—a gentleman of the old school, courtly considerate, deferential, who shunned ostentation to the degree of abhorrence. His benevolences were wholly impersonal, offhand, from the pocket, his identity often being completely hidden. He was quickly responsive to children and he would strike up a sort of quiet good fellowship with them as he passed them from day to day along the street. He gave most liberally to encourage talent and ambition of children in limited circumstances, and when once his sympathies were enlisted he never forgot. He idolized his own grandchildren.

Mr. Deere was married September 16, 1862, to Mary L. Dickinson of Chicago. To them were born two children: Anna C. Deere, August 20, 1864, who became the wife of William Dwight Wiman and who died June 1, 1906, in Santa Barbara, California; Katharine M. Deere, born in October, 1866, wife of William Butterworth. Mr. Deere died October 29, 1907.



## HERBERT E. CASTEEL.

HERBERT E. CASTEEL, one of Rock Island County's most enterprising and highly regarded citizens, prominent in banking and business circles and a self made man, was born in Davenport, Scott County, Iowa, March 15, 1860, and was the son of Appleton and Elizabeth Gardner Casteel.

Mr. Casteel's strides to prominence are the result of hard toiling and struggle in his early days and his keen business methods and perseverance in later years.

Terminating his studies in the public schools of Davenport, he was not any too well provided with education with which to enter the great field of business struggle, but

with optimistic ideas he quietly worked them to a point of value and with each change of position came a promotion and higher salary. To this end he directed his ardent ambition until he reached the estimable position of bank president.

Mr. Casteel's business career dates back many years, owing to the fact that he started out for his own livelihood at an early age. When only thirteen years of age he went to Port Byron, Illinois, and two years later, in 1875, he entered the employe of the Port Byron Lumber Company as bookkeeper, which position he held for two and a half years. In 1875 he went to Rapids City, Illinois, where he entered the employe of Taylor Williams at the same occupation and, for two and a half years more he followed this special work. As a departure from the lumber business Mr. Casteel became associated with John Schafer in the mercantile business, and after some years in this, and upon dissolution of partnership he, took the position of assistant superintendant of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad company's coal mines at Perry, Iowa, until 1884, when he resigned his position and again took up merchandising.

Prior to his departure from Illinois for Perry, Iowa, and at the age of twenty-one years, he decided to take a wife, and on December 22, 1881, was married to Miss Emma S. Lowry. To this union two children were born, a son, Lowry M., and a daughter, Evangeline Gardner Casteel. The son is at present engaged as assistant teller in the Rock Island National Bank, while the daughter attends college.

When John Schafer was elected treasurer of Rock Island County, Mr. Casteel was appointed deputy county treasurer, which position he held for the full term. At the expiration of this he accompanied Major C. W. Hawes of the Modern Woodmen of America to Fulton, Illinois, as assistant head clerk, which position he held until 1893,

when he decided to shake the dust of Illinois from his feet and locate in South Dakota. In the above year he located at Parkston, and occupied the position of cashier of the Parkston State Bank of Parkston, this change taking place just prior to the panic of the same year. He continued his services with that institution until 1898, and after a few months of retirement and in August of 1899 he accepted the position of cashier of the Rock Island National Bank and located his family here.

In the Fall of 1899 he floated the stock of and incorporated the Central Trust and Savings Bank of Rock Island, this taking place in December of 1899, and was elected himself as cashier.

In May, 1902, upon the death of J. F. Robinson, Mr. Casteel was elected president of the Rock Island National and of the Central Trust and Savings Banks, and to the present day is the head of both institutions.

In addition to the above responsible positions, Mr Casteel has the business management of the Robinson estate and is interested in several of the flourishing manufacturing institutions of the tri-cities.

Aside from deputy county treasurer he never held a public office except that of treasurer of the Bethany Home Protective Association of Rock Island, which is a home conducted for poverty stricken and destitute children. He was a democrat, but believed in the Republican platforms under McKinley and Roosevelt, and in accordance with his political opinions voted the Republican ticket.

Mr. Casteel is a Mason of the thirty-second degree and has membership in several of the Masonic lodges aside from the Consistory. Among the lodges of which he is a member are Philo Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Rock Island Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Rock Island Commandery, Knights Templar and Oriental Consistory. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In his fraternal and social affiliations,





WILLIAM A. MEESE.



as well as in business, he has surrounded himself with numerous acquaintances throughout the city, county and state, and in honest opinion of so honorable a man to the community, it can be stated without contradiction that his loss would be a severe blow to the business interests of the city and to his scores of friends.

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### WILLIAM A. MEESE.

WHEN that evil day shall come whereon William A. Meese exchanges his 71<sup>st</sup>, derby of commerce for the starry crown of heavenly reward, doffs his conventional haberdashery of the Mississippi Valley for the celestial cerements of eternal bliss, Moline will pause in its onward march to industrial eminence, consider well this life-time of devotion to the city's interests, drop a tear of affection for a departed comrade and wonder with apprehension where the half-dozen men are to spring from to take his place in the struggle for civic improvement. He has been for a half-century the loyal friend of his town, the unwavering champion of Moline's claims to consideration, her press agent, advocate and guardian spirit. This esteem is mutual and reciprocal and the constant plea of Moline is that William A. Meese may long be spared to serve as her envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. His list of activities for the good of his city before deliberative and legislative bodies and as a member of organizations which have built the city into its present proud condition, spiritually, morally, educationally and industrially has not been written. The record is long, honorable and fortunately incomplete.

William A. Meese was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, February 1, 1856. It has been a subject of regret that he was not a native of Moline, but this error, not his own, he repaired as speedily as possible by bringing his family to the village of promise in the garden spot

of the Mississippi Valley at the age of two. His father, Henry Bruno Meese, and mother, Johanna (von Thielde) Meese, were natives of Hanover, Germany, and came to this country in 1852.

A small and sturdy specimen of the tow-headed German-American he entered upon his education in the Moline public schools, graduating therefrom in due time; thence to the preparatory course of Griswold College in Davenport, and completed the Freshman year in that institution. From Griswold to Rock River Seminary (now Mt. Morris College) and graduation in 1876. In one subsequent year at the State University of Iowa the degree of Bachelor of Laws was secured. The next year was spent in advanced studies. In 1878 after preparation adequate and admirable, the law student was transformed into a practicing attorney by admission to the bar of Illinois.

He entered upon the practice of law in his home city and soon attracted a volume of business flattering to the native product, who, unlike the biblical prophet, found honor in his own country. By utilizing a natural talent for concentration which brings a margin of leisure, Mr. Meese has found time to serve his City and State in many ways. He has been a member of the library board, a member of the cemetery board, has served as City Attorney for six years and for four years was a trustee of the Northern Illinois State Normal School. His profession brought him into politics and he has been allied with the Republican Party in his State.

Mr. Meese admits a natural inclination toward allying himself with other men in organizations for mutual helpfulness and the advancement of society. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Red Men, the Turners and a few other fraternal bodies. He is also a member of the Moline Club, the Tri-City Press Club, the Chicago Press Club and a half-dozen historical societies.

It would be easy for a biographer to write a chapter concerning Mr. Meese's love for history. His work along that line and his really valuable contributions to the records of this region. A number of monographs which he has published show original research of vast industry and commensurate result. He has been the inspiration of the Rock Island County Historical society and has been called upon for historical addresses on many important occasions in western cities. His historical library is admirable in its range and has many exceptional books of rarity and great value. Mr. Meese's friends are hopeful that there may come from his pen some day the yet unwritten history of Illinois, for which he has ample original material at hand.

Mr. Meese's research into local events of bygone days led to his appearance before the Illinois General Assembly and an appropriation to mark the battle-site of the War of 1812 on Campbell's Island near Moline. The dedication of that memorial in the Summer of 1908 was the occasion of such a patriotic demonstration as the City of Moline had never previously entered upon. Incidentally the scholarly historian was so glorified by orators and press that his natural modesty has suffered an inordinate increase. His subsequent life has been one continuous unspoken apology for being unable to feel as great as his friends have painted him.

The work which at present engrosses the spare minutes of Mr. Meese concerns a wider area than his beloved City of Moline or his home state. It is the splendid endeavor to which the Upper Mississippi River Improve-

ment Association is pledged. Of that organization Mr. Meese is first vice-president.

While president of the Moline Business Men's Association Mr. Meese made several trips to Washington, and as the result secured an appropriation of \$386,000 for the construction of a lock in the Mississippi River at his home city, thus making Moline a river town, a privilege it had been deprived of for over thirty years. As first vice-president of the River Association Mr. Meese assumed charge of and personally conducted the campaign before Congress for a six-foot channel for the Mississippi River from St. Paul to the mouth of the Missouri River. The work was successful and in March 1908, Congress adopted the plan, the largest before that session, carrying an expenditure of over twenty million dollars.

The solid foundation of success in life is a happy home. Whether this was appreciated by the young attorney and his marriage made a part of his plan for advancement, or whether Fortune so ordered affairs in the distribution of her favors, in any event the best piece of good luck that ever befell Mr. Meese was his marriage in 1878 to Miss Kittie Buxton, daughter of Daniel Buxton and Anna S. (Kane) Buxton, of Marengo, Illinois. Their home has been brightened and blessed by four daughters—Maude, the wife of Harry E. Newton; Kittie, wife of Benjamin S. Bell, also Lillian, Gertrude and Helen Meese. In his life of professional activity and public usefulness, William A. Meese has had the unwavering and sympathetic encouragement of his family circle.

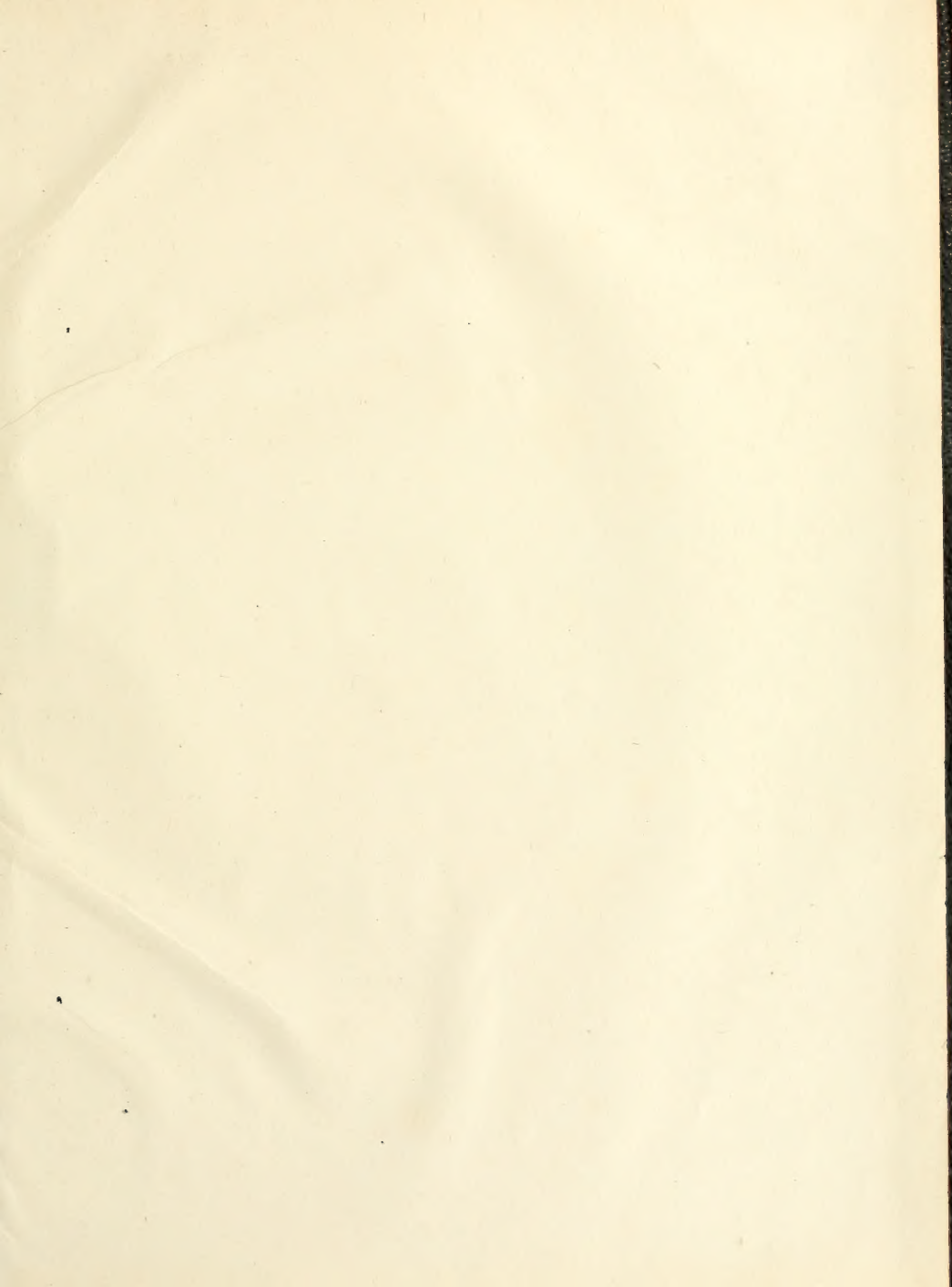
















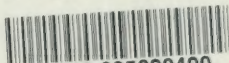






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